



Key Questions and Answers about Nayland College

- because we believe in keeping parents as fully informed and involved as possible

These are questions the Education Review Office suggests parents ask when choosing a secondary school. Further information is available in the prospectus and from the College.

Q If I choose Nayland College will there be a place for my child?

We can take all students as we are no longer required to maintain a zone. It is important that everyone who wants to come to Nayland returns an enrolment form by Monday 29 August.

Q What are the advantages of coeducation?

We firmly believe coeducation enhances the qualities of young people. As they interact they learn to respect the rights and opinions of everyone and they develop the social skills that help them grow into positive, confident and well-adjusted young adults.

Q How do Nayland students perform academically?

Nayland consistently achieves top scholarship results and sustains external NCEA pass rates well above the national average. Nayland students achieve notable success in a range of other qualifications, academic competitions and tertiary scholarships.

Q How and when will you let me know how my child is getting on?

You will receive three written reports including a progress report early in the year to tell you how your child is settling in to their new classes. Year 9 parents have a special meeting in the first term to get to know the form teachers and other parents. Form teachers and deans will contact you if there are matters causing concern. There are also parent interviews and subject teachers will phone home when there are issues or to inform you when things are going particularly well.

Q How will I find out what is going on at College?

You will receive a newsletter, mailed twice a term, and notices to advertise meetings or events at College. You can also access daily notices on our website. Whenever your child has a class trip or special activity we send you a letter with all the details. You will also receive a calendar that highlights major events for the College year and upcoming events are advertised on the radio.

Q What access will I have to information about my child?

We have an open information policy and you have the right to see all information we keep about your child. It is also helpful if the College is kept informed of changes at home. We want to hear from you and work with you. By being involved in your child's education and activities you give them the best chance for success. You will also have an electronic log on to enable you to check your child's attendance, timetable and academic record.

Q How does Nayland ensure that students are safe and happy?

Our supportive network of teachers, form teachers, deans and guidance counsellors meet regularly so individual problems are quickly identified and attended to. We take a personal interest in every student as your child's welfare is our number one concern. Your child's vertical form teacher will be a key person in your child's life throughout their time at Nayland.

Q What should I do if I am worried about my child's progress or experiences at school?

Let us know promptly by contacting the form teacher or dean. It is always better to deal with problems as soon as possible. Also, our experience and knowledge will be of help as you deal with the challenges of adolescence.

Q What fees or donations does the College ask for?

We keep our school donation and activity fees as reasonable as possible and hope you will pay promptly or make arrangements for time payment. In 2012 the single donation will be \$220 (\$30 discount for early payment by the end of May) and the family donation will be \$280 (\$30 discount for early payment by the end of May). Whenever any cost is involved for materials and services used by your child you will receive a letter giving details. All payments may be made at the Student Office where receipts are issued.

Q What is the College's attitude to drugs, alcohol and smoking?

Like you, we do all we can to educate your child about the dangers of alcohol, drugs and smoking and forbid them all during any school activity. Students with a smoking addiction will be helped to quit but can expect to face disciplinary action if they are caught smoking at school or when associated with the College. The College is a Smoke Free Zone.

Q What sexual health and education programmes does the College have?

Your child will receive a full programme of social and sexual health education throughout their years at Nayland. You are welcome to see what we teach and discuss the approach Health teachers and invited experts take.

Q How does the College help students choose their subjects?

Students receive professional careers information and guidance at all levels. We want your child to follow appropriate pathways that ensure they are well equipped for further education, their career and life beyond school.

Q How do students get involved in sports teams, music groups and drama?

Every day every class receives the School Notices with details about meetings, sports trials and auditions. Form teachers make sure your child knows about the opportunities open to them and our Sports Director and Performance Arts Coordinator will help them sign up for the activities they want to participate in.

Q What are the arrangements if my child gets sick at school or has to stay at home because of illness?

We contact you immediately if your child should return home. Otherwise they may spend a short time in the sick bay or receive first aid. If your child is sick you are encouraged to telephone the College (03) 547 9769 and select option 1 to leave absentee details, or email away@nayland.school.nz. When students have time off sick, and the absence has not been reported to the College, they must bring an absence note to the Student Office when they return.

Q How does Nayland monitor attendance?

Our computerised attendance system ensures that a check is kept throughout the day. You will receive a text message if your child misses a class without explanation. When the Attendance Officer or Form Teacher is concerned about an unexplained absence they may ring home. You can check your child's attendance on our student portal, accessible through our website.

Q Will my child be placed in a class that best meets their learning needs?

Yes. After testing on College Entrance Day, evaluations of current progress, consultation with 2011 teachers, and with parents where appropriate, students are grouped according to their needs. At your enrolment interview you will be able to discuss the learning needs of your child.

Q If my child has special talents will these be catered for?

When your child enrolls we will ask about their special abilities and discuss ways that these can be extended when they join us. All students are put into classes appropriate to their abilities and we encourage students to take on extra interests that will expand their talents. Nayland believes that each student is an individual and we work very hard to cater for your child's requirements.

Q If my child has special learning needs, will these be catered for?

Yes, those students needing support are grouped in smaller classes so they receive more individual attention. These groupings may be in single or selected subjects. Students with specific learning difficulties are provided with individual and small group tuition to enable them to participate fully in the classroom programme. Selected students will be eligible for the excellent programmes our Learner Support Centre offers.

Q Can your child be in the same class as their friends?

Yes, for some of their subjects. When you come to interviews later in the year we will make sure we know which friends your child would like to be with so they can start Nayland College in classes with people they feel comfortable with. This really helps, though it will not be long before your child makes new friendships.

Q What time does the College day begin and end?

We expect all students to be at College by 8.50 am and ready for form time at 8.55 am. The day finishes at 3.10 pm. You will receive details about interval and lunchtime arrangements at the beginning of the year.

Q How does Nayland welcome new students to the College?

Year 9s have an orientation programme on the first day of school to find their way around the College and learn what our expectations are. The deans and form teachers look after new students and make sure they do not get lost. It is no time at all before juniors are feeling right at home.

Q What arrangements are there for students leaving the College grounds during the day?

Your child must stay in the College unless they have your written permission and the permission of the College to leave the grounds. In Year 13 a special contract allows students to study at home or leave the school during the day.

Q Do girls and boys get equal opportunities in all activities?

Absolutely, and that healthy interaction is one of the great things about co-education. Your child will learn sound values and social skills from teachers and from our senior role models.

Q How does Nayland support sporting and cultural activities?

Nayland College has a Sports Director, Code Coordinators and a Cultural Activities Coordinator who all work very hard to organise teams and activities so that everyone can be fully involved. The College also provides uniforms, equipment and coaches - and boasts one of the highest participation rates in New Zealand for a coeducational school.

Q Do senior students look after the juniors?

This is a feature of Nayland. With vertical forms being introduced, seniors will work with juniors in their form classes and act as coaches, activity organisers and peer mediators. The seniors will support your child at the swimming and athletics sports, at camps, in activities such as Stage Challenge and generally around the College.

Q May I see the school charter and read the last ERO report?

Of course. A copy of the charter is kept in the reception area and also on the College's website: www.nayland.school.nz You can read the ERO report on www.ero.govt.nz or you may request a copy from the Student Office.

Q What if I have other questions?

Please telephone the College (03) 547 9769. The Principal is always happy to talk to parents and answer any questions.

Great teachers, excellent opportunities and a reputation for caring about our students!