

Public vs. private school: **Finding the right fit**



The public vs. private school debate is one of many choices you'll have to consider for your child's education.

Choosing the right school for your child's needs:

- Weigh up the pros and cons as a parent.
- Consider the commute – public transport, being dropping off/picked up, traffic, etc.
- Consider the schools core values, policies, education, and extracurricular activities/ clubs – do these align with your family values and child's interests?
- Weigh up the pros and cons as a student.
- Ask for your child's input and talk about their priorities – what subjects/sports are they interested in pursuing? Which schools offer these options?
- Visit all the schools on your shortlist with your child for a better feel of each option!

With so many things to think about, we've created a checklist of some top considerations to help you prioritise your non-negotiables. We've left some extra room for you as well to include additional considerations.

And if you needed any extra help, we've included a nifty scoring system that gets your child involved as well.

School Feature Checklist

School feature	Very important	Important	Indifferent	N/A
Religious curriculum				
Sporting programs				
All our children attend the same school				
Academic reputation/NCEA results				
Artistic/creative programs				
Proximity to home/public transport availability				
Friends of our children attend the same school				
Standard of school facilities				
Student to teacher ratio				
Affordability of any school fees				
School's reputation in the local community				
The school is within our local catchment zone				
Before and after school care availability				
Support for children with special education needs				

School Score Card

When visiting schools to decide which is best, you can use the below scoring system with your child to help you find the right fit.

School name:	Name:	Name:	Name:	Total rating
Example High School	Dad	Mum	Child	
School features:	Rating /10			
1. Sporting facilities	6/10	7/10	7/10	20/30
2. Netball program	7/10	7/10	8/10	22/30
3. Reputation	8/10	8/10	7/10	23/30
4. Public transport availability	9/10	9/10	8/10	26/30
5. Swimming pool	6/10	6/10	6/10	18/30
6. Science labs	8/10	9/10	8/10	26/30
7. Art program	4/10	5/10	4/10	13/30
8.	/10	/10	/10	/30
9.	/10	/10	/10	/30
10.	/10	/10	/10	/30
	Total =			148/210

School name:	Name:	Name:	Name:	Total rating
School features:	Rating /10			
1.	/10	/10	/10	/30
2.	/10	/10	/10	/30
3.	/10	/10	/10	/30
4.	/10	/10	/10	/30
5.	/10	/10	/10	/30
6.	/10	/10	/10	/30
7.	/10	/10	/10	/30
8.	/10	/10	/10	/30
9.	/10	/10	/10	/30
10.	/10	/10	/10	/30
	Total =			

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4.	/10	/10	/10	/30
5.	/10	/10	/10	/30
6.	/10	/10	/10	/30
7.	/10	/10	/10	/30
8.	/10	/10	/10	/30
9.	/10	/10	/10	/30
10.	/10	/10	/10	/30
			Total =	

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School features:	Rating /10			
1.	/10	/10	/10	/30
2.	/10	/10	/10	/30
3.	/10	/10	/10	/30
4.	/10	/10	/10	/30
5.	/10	/10	/10	/30
6.	/10	/10	/10	/30
7.	/10	/10	/10	/30
8.	/10	/10	/10	/30
9.	/10	/10	/10	/30
10.	/10	/10	/10	/30
			Total =	