

DILWORTH SCHOOL – GUIDE FOR REFEREE’S RESPONSE FORM

TO SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL TUTOR APPLICATION

Introduction

You have been asked to complete a comprehensive referee’s questionnaire. Because we are making the appointment from overseas, we do rely very heavily on the information provided by the referees. This guide will help to give you a perspective from which to make your comments. Clearly you will want to be as supportive of the applicant as possible, however from our perspective we do want appropriate enthusiasm to be tempered with frank appraisal! As the tutor takes a highly trusted position in the school and has a great deal of interaction with the students, it is extremely important that we get a frank and realistic appraisal to ensure the wellbeing of all concerned. Travelling across the world for a year needs someone with resilience and strong support systems to deal with difficulties that may arise.

Where is Dilworth School?

Dilworth School is situated in Auckland, the largest city in New Zealand with a population of more than 1.5 million. Found in the northern part of the North Island, it has a mild, sub-tropical climate. The school itself is very conveniently situated near the city centre in very pleasant suburban surroundings. It is handy to shopping facilities and to transport.

The foundation of Dilworth School

Dilworth School was founded under the terms of the Will of James Dilworth, an Ulsterman who came to New Zealand in 1840, the year of the founding of the colony. He settled in Auckland in its very early days, and had the wisdom to invest in land. He and his wife Isabella were childless and so decided that his considerable wealth should be used to fund a school for boys whose parents were in financially straitened circumstances. Dilworth School opened in 1906 on part of his farm estate in Epsom. The Dilworth Trust Board provides a scholarship that, in effect, covers all tuition and boarding fees, as well as the provision of other requirements such as uniforms for all students. The school follows the Anglican traditions of worship.

The school facilities are well appointed and well-resourced in up-to-date buildings.

The school’s ethos still remains the same as it was intended - a school for boys whose parents are in financially difficult circumstances. Today the school operates under one administration, but from three campuses, two which are a short distance apart from each other with the third one approximately 45 minutes’ drive away. The Junior Campus acts as a prep school from the ages of 9 to 12 with approximately 200 boys. The Rural Campus is for boys aged 13 and is set in Mangatawhiri, a rural area just south of Auckland. The Senior Campus is the secondary school catering for up to 340 boys between the ages of 14 to 18 years. As all boys are boarders, Dilworth School is the largest boarding school in New Zealand.

Because there are a large number of applicants for a limited number of places each year the majority of the students of the school are well motivated to succeed. The ethnic mix reflects the socio-economic population statistics of New Zealand, meaning we have significant number of Māori and Pacific Island students, alongside New Zealand European, Asian and students from other cultures.

The role of international tutor is threefold

Assist in the boarding houses:

These duties involve assisting the duty housemaster and house matron with the task of the day-to-day running of the house including getting the boys up in the morning, overseeing bed making, morning jobs and general housekeeping duties. Again in the evening, tutors assist with homework and study as well as general duties. There are also meal supervision duties. There are also some weekend duties involved as well.

Assist in the school:

There are a variety of tasks to be done. Each tutor will be given a timetable which will have a variety of tasks scheduled during the day from assisting with the Physical Education programme, helping with the learning support, assisting with specific subject areas depending on personal expertise such as Mathematics, Science, Music or Graphics as well as helping to cover classes for absent teachers. One weekday is given as a day off.

Assist with sports coaching or equivalent:

The tutor will be allocated a sports team which matches as far as possible the tutor's preferences and abilities. At the secondary school level these sports teams compete in the inter-secondary school competitions on Saturday mornings. Not all applicants are sport orientated and we do look for suitable applicants who have a cultural/musical background.

Will there be any other international tutors?

We employ 14 international tutors across both Junior and Senior campuses. At the Senior Campus, there are also eight New Zealand tutors.

International tutors come from a variety of places and schools. We have a special relationship with the Royal School Dungannon in Northern Ireland, which grants four places to tutors - two women for the Junior Campus and two men at the Senior Campus. We have also developed some reciprocal links with other schools that know us well and work with us regularly, and Tutors Worldwide also offers an excellent service in providing tutors.

What sort of person are we looking for?

The type of young man/woman that we are looking for is ideally a good all-rounder, not necessarily at the top of the academic scale, but someone with a proven record in leadership, plus sporting or other ability. They should be well motivated, able to show initiative and enthusiasm, as well as having a responsible attitude to life. In short, we are looking for someone who will give their best to the job; in return we will give them the opportunity to experience life in another part of the world.

It is important that they have good support and good social skills in making friends and fitting in well. They will end up living in close relationships with other tutors and need to be able to fit in and get along well with their peers as well as working effectively with the boys and staff at Dilworth.

I hope this gives you a better understanding of who we are, what the position entails, and the type of young person we are looking for.

Thank you for your help. If you have any questions, please contact Human Resources Manager Johanna Clark on j.clark@dilworth.school.nz.