

# Welcome to Waitākiri REAL CHOICES Challenges 2025

February 2025

Kia ora whānau

REAL CHOICES Challenges: For those of you who are new to these challenges, it can take a full year for each level and the majority of the challenges are completed at home (don't panic yet, you will see that this is very different to traditional homework). These challenges acknowledge the many worthwhile learning activities that children are involved in, at and beyond home. These include making meals, exploring the outdoors, camping and tramping, dance, representative sport, visiting the elderly, being creative in the arts, environmental-based activities and pursuing other things of interest to your child.

REAL CHOICES Challenges are an optional part of Home Learning at Waitākiri. We strongly encourage you as whānau to support your child to get involved in the REAL CHOICES Challenges as children who succeed as self-directed learners are more likely to be successful in other life challenges and learning.

If your Year 5 child is involved with Children's University and completes the minimum requirement of 30 hours, they will automatically receive their Harakeke badge at the end of the year. (Information about this has been sent out last week.) Please complete the permission and support form for REAL challenges anyway.

HOW IT WORKS: Year Group Challenges Minimum number of challenges

Year 4 Rata Challenges 8

Year 5 Harakeke Challenges 9

Year 6 Pounamu Challenges 10

The maximum number of challenges? Well, the sky is the limit!

- All levels have 6 sections: Community, Environment and Sustainability, Personal Inquiry, Creativity, Physical Activity and the Outdoors, and Cultural Diversity
- There is a requirement to do at least 2 challenges in the Environment and Sustainability category and at least 1 in each of the other categories
- Each category gives you the opportunity to create your own challenge if there is something you want to do that is not listed. These challenges must be approved by your home teacher first – please ask your teacher for the design your own challenge proposal form to fill in. It is important to show your teacher the plan before starting this challenge.
- A challenge is something that takes effort and commitment to achieve it. Let this be reflected in each of the challenges you choose and complete
- As you finish a challenge please share this with your teacher so it can be checked off
- Challenges must be all completed and shown to your teacher by Friday 17 November
- If children complete and have signed by their home teacher half the total amount of challenges before the end of Term 2 they will receive a certificate to recognise this achievement in the school Learning Celebration. Children who have made a start on their Challenges by the end of Term one also receive a certificate for 'making a start'.
- At the end of the year the successful Year 4/5 children will receive a badge and the successful Year 6 students receive a unique piece of pounamu to wear in the years ahead

***REAL Heroes making REAL CHOICES***

***Hanga kōwhiringa tūturu***

**170 Burwood Rd, Christchurch 8083 P: 03 383 2736 E:**

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- If children do more than the minimum number of challenges -this is fantastic- and we encourage children to strive beyond the minimum. They will still receive the same badge. These challenges are about the process of learning and the

enjoyment along the way as children become REAL Heroes... so give it a go... challenge yourself

- Children cannot move up to the next level until they are in the next year group
- REAL Challenges for Home Learning work because there are CHOICES!
- Please help your child make a plan of their challenges for the year so that they complete everything on time
- Your child's teacher is available in the Learning Studio between 8:30 and 9:00. They will set up specific times that children can come and share their challenges
- To be successful REAL CHOICES Challenges rely on the relationships between the child, their whānau and their teachers. It is about us as the adults encouraging and challenging our children to become self-directed and lifelong learners.
- Evidence of each Challenge completed should be collated in either a clear file/folder or in a digital format.

### **Community Challenges: Co1**

There are a limited number of opportunities to raise money at school for your chosen charity so also give thought to how you could do this outside of school. Any Co1 challenge you request to hold at school must be approved and scheduled by Mrs Hillson at the office.

Information about World Vision's 20-hour famine will be advised through the newsletter.

Think creatively and beyond making and selling 'treat foods' to raise money at school. These will be limited during the year. Find out from the charity you are 'giving to' about what they need.... it might not just be money.

### **Where to from here:**

If your child chooses to take up the REAL CHOICES Challenges in 2025 you as whānau will need to be involved so we require a positive commitment from you and your child. We will do all that we can at Waitākiri to ensure that the Challenges are a huge success for your child. Each child will receive a REAL CHOICES Challenges booklet which outlines the challenges available for them to complete.

Children are to have their REAL CHOICES Challenges booklet with their evidence completed and all signed off by Monday 17 November to ensure they get their badge or pounamu.

Please fill out and sign the form which has been sent home with your child and return it to your child's homebase teacher.

We look forward to partnering with you and your child in their REAL CHOICES Challenges this year.

Ngā mihi nui

*Kaye Royle and Darren Aitchison, REAL CHOICES Challenges Co-ordinators*

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# Waitākiri REAL CHOICES Challenges 2025

## Permission and Support Form

### Child's Commitment:

I \_\_\_\_\_ would like to participate in the REAL CHOICES Challenges this year. I understand that the REAL CHOICES Challenges will take effort and commitment from me to achieve. They will increase my learning and challenge me physically, academically, creatively, culturally, and socially and help me become more environmentally sustainable in my life. I will learn to give and support others as part of being a positive member of the community.

I am committed to completing at least the minimum number of the required number of challenges by Monday 17 November and will try to complete half by the middle of the year by making a good plan. I will complete the proposal form if I choose any of the 'Design Your Own' challenges and show my teacher.

\_\_\_\_\_ (signature)

### Parent/Caregivers Commitment

I look forward to supporting \_\_\_\_\_ from Learning Studio \_\_\_\_\_ in their REAL CHOICES Challenges this year and will assist them with challenges (but not do the tasks for them).

Questions/comments I/we have are:

\_\_\_\_\_ (signature)

(Please return this to your child's homebase teacher.)

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