

Why Willowbank?

- Known for being able to get up close and personal with the animals and birds.
- Able to interact with the animals and birds by feeding them.
- Willowbank houses one of the best displays of NZ species in New Zealand.
- Close to Christchurch for better transport costs.
- Teachers have the ability to visit Willowbank at no cost once a booking is made to plan their excursion.
- Schools have the option to have a Keeper talk or teacher lesson. Or, just reserve entry with a bag of food for the animals.
- Willowbank has a one way walking path, for ease of getting around.
- Willowbank is made up of three areas – Zoo, Farmyard and Native.
- Plenty of shade and shelter from the weather within a bush like setting.
- Schools get free use of the barn facility to store bags and have lunch.
- Willowbank is a part of the ONE kiwi breeding programme, and when eggs and chicks are onsite, we have a tour facility to see this process.
- Free Willowbank unit plans on set topics.
- Willowbank is able to adapt our lessons and keeper talks to meet the requirements of the schools.
- Willowbank hosts an onsite Wildlife Hospital that is a non-profit organisation. It welcomes any sick or injured wildlife that is brought in by the public. It runs with a host of volunteers, including vets and vet nurses. This facility can be added into any educational visit.
- Willowbank has an off display predator free area that small groups of secondary students could study.
- We hold a variety of resources on our website, mainly for primary aged students, such as scavenger hunts.
- RAMs forms are available for schools planning.
- Willowbank runs an up-to-date and functional Health and Safety programme for its facilities and the activities held onsite.
- At all times there is a qualified First Aider onsite to help with any incidents.