



Logo for learning: Longford Intermediate School principal Shona Hewlett (left) and pupils Connor Ramsay (12) and Brianna Kaio (12) display the school's Positive Behaviour for Learning logo. PHOTO: RUSSELL FREDRIC

Programme promotes positive behaviour

By RUSSELL FREDRIC

LONGFORD Intermediate School is one of several southern schools participating in a Ministry of Education positive behaviour programme.

Principal Shona Hewlett said the school launched the "Positive Behaviour for Learning" programme last Wednesday with the unveiling of a logo.

The logo is based on the legend of the lizard of the Hokonui Hills and the legend of Matamata.

The key principles decided by teachers, parents and pupils included on the logo were "responsible, respectful and safe", Ms Hewlett said.

As part of the launch, a tuatara

called Gunther, from Southland Museum, visited the school.

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L) was a Ministry of Education initiative to measure behaviour against. It was a research-based, measurable programme that was easy for teachers to manage, Ms Hewlett said.

PB4L promoted positive behaviour with rewards rather than taking a punitive, negative approach.

"We are working from a positive position," she said.

Longford is one of six Eastern Southland schools chosen to participate in the programme during the next three years.

Pupils received a wristband with

the rules on it, a pen and balloon at the programme launch, Ms Hewlett said.

Ms Hewlett said PB4L had been gradually implemented during the previous year.

Part of PB4L was a computer program in which "incidents" such as irresponsible or unacceptable behaviour were logged.

Having a standardised approach to dealing with behaviour issues eliminated misunderstandings and ambiguities for pupils and teachers, she said.

"If different teachers are interacting in different ways [with pupils] it can be unsettling. It definitely makes my job easier," Ms Hewlett said.