



Our View

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Rewards work in school

Bribery is a word which usually conjures up images of shady deals but there's nothing shady about what's happening at Rotorua's Kaitao Middle School.

Most parents know that a little bribery goes a long way when it comes to getting children to behave so it stands to reason it would also work at school.

Kaitao's Positive Behaviour for Learning programme, which rewards good behaviour, is enjoying excellent results and has created a positive, enjoyable school environment.

Kaitao students are being taught honesty, respect and kindness and they get rewarded for consistently good behaviour. They are given vouchers for displaying good values and the vouchers, as they add up, can win the students rewards like cellphones and Apple iPads.

I'm not so sure about the cellphones because deciding if their child gets a cellphone

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should surely be a decision made by the parents but presumably they are involved with the school and have given the programme the thumbs up.

Either way, the system is working. It has led to huge improvements in the general behaviour of children at the school and that can only be a good thing. It means the focus is on learning.

There's also bound to be a bit of peer pressure brought to bear on those who don't tow the line. Nobody likes to be the odd one out and if a child is the only one misbehaving, they are more likely to eventually conform than go the other way.

As Principal Rory O'Rourke says in our article in today's *Daily Post*, what the programme does is make it clear to students what's expected of them and the consequences of not meeting those expectations.

And just as nobody wants to be the odd one out, nobody wants to miss out when rewards are on offer.