



Principal gives PB4L tick of approval

By Myles Hume

A behavioural programme set to be rolled out to hundreds more schools has already been given the tick of approval by a Mid Canterbury principal.

Yesterday, Education Minister Hekia Parata made a pre-budget announcement to spend \$80.5 million more on education.

Of that, she said \$63.6m would go into school-wide behaviour programme - Positive Behaviour for Learning, also known as PB4L - over four years. The Ministry of Education hopes it will lift achievement in 200 more schools.

Netherby School is the only

school in the district to use PB4L, and principal Andrew Leverton says it has made a positive impact at his school when they took it on last year.

"It allows consistency in the school so if one teacher is on duty, the teacher on the next day will do the same," Mr Leverton said.

"One of the things we do is we expect children to be lined up outside their class two minutes after the bell and in class before three minutes.

"It just develops positive behaviour and reinforces the school's practices."

Mr Leverton said PB4L had contributed to the drop in behavioural problems at the

school, which created a better learning environment.

The programme is run by a small group of Netherby staff and is linked with fellow PB4L schools in Christchurch.

As part of the programme, Netherby School uses 'pride tokens' which are handed out for pupils who displayed positive behaviour, once pupils gained 20 they would get a special postcard, and there were also prizes handed out during and at the end of terms.

Mr Leverton said he handed out some tokens on Monday after some of his year six pupils had a year two and three classroom ready for a teacher after they looked after the youngsters on their lunch break.

"It's not a carrot, it's about saying you made a really good decision."

With 200 more primary and intermediate schools to take on the programme, Mr Leverton

said he hoped other Mid Canterbury schools would latch on to the programme which had made a difference at Netherby School.

Of the remainder of the \$80.5m, \$14.5m will be spread over four years to support Boards of Trustees and \$2.4m over four years for connecting communities to help support families to confidently engage with their early childhood services and schools.



Andrew Leverton