



Heat Kits Into Schools Initiative

Heat Kits into Schools Initiative 2026

School partner Information

Welcome

The Heat Kits into Schools initiative is a hands-on learning programme designed to help tamariki understand what makes a warm, dry, healthy, and energy-efficient home. Delivered by WISE Charitable Trust with support from Powerco and Health New Zealand, the programme combines practical tools, interactive learning, and at-home exploration to empower students and their whānau.

Through this initiative, students become active participants in understanding how homes work — learning about heat loss, moisture, ventilation, and energy use in a way that is engaging, practical, and meaningful.



About the programme



Heat Kits into Schools gives tamariki the opportunity to explore healthy homes through real-life investigation and hands-on learning.

Each participating student receives access to a Heat Kit filled with tools that help measure and identify factors that affect comfort, health, and energy efficiency inside the home. Alongside the kit, students complete a guided workbook that encourages observation, critical thinking, and discussion with whānau.

The programme begins with a Healthy Homes Presentation delivered by the WISE team, introducing students to key concepts including:

- Insulation
- Ventilation
- Moisture and condensation
- Heat retention
- Energy efficiency
- Healthy living environments

Students then take the learning beyond the classroom by using the tools at home and recording their findings in their workbook.

What's Inside a Heat Kit?

Each kit includes practical, easy-to-use tools such as:

- **Moisture Meter** – checks dampness in walls, floors, or furniture
- **Hygrometer** – measures humidity levels inside the home
- **Milesight Device** – monitors carbon dioxide (CO₂) and airflow conditions
- **Thermal Image Camera** – helps visualise heat loss and cold areas
- **Heat Gun** – compares temperatures across different surfaces

The programme is designed to make learning interactive, memorable, and empowering for tamariki of all backgrounds.



How It Works

1. Healthy Homes Presentation

WISE delivers an engaging classroom session introducing students to the importance of warm, dry, and healthy homes. (2 hours)

2. Heat Kit Distribution

Students receive access to the Heat Kits and are guided through how to safely use each tool.

3. Workbook Activities

Students complete activities and observations using the workbook provided. The workbook supports learning both at school and at home.

4. At-Home Investigation

Students become “home detectives,” exploring how their homes retain heat, manage moisture, and stay ventilated.

5. Sharing Knowledge

Students are encouraged to discuss their findings with whānau, helping spread awareness and practical knowledge throughout the community.

Your Role

The success of the Heat Kits into Schools initiative relies on strong collaboration between WISE, schools, teachers, students, and whānau.

We ask participating schools to support the programme by encouraging student engagement, accountability, and completion of workbook activities.



Commitment Matters

To ensure tamariki gain the full benefit of the programme, we ask schools to:

- Encourage active participation throughout the programme
- Support students in completing their workbooks
- Help students care for and return Heat Kit equipment responsibly
- Promote discussions around healthy homes within the classroom and school community
- Communicate the importance of the programme to whānau

The workbook is an essential part of the learning journey. Completing workbook activities helps students connect classroom knowledge with real-life experiences at home and strengthens the overall impact of the initiative.

By working together, we can create meaningful learning experiences that empower students with practical knowledge they can carry into the future.

Programme Highlights & Outcomes

Since launching the Heat Kits into Schools initiative, WISE Charitable Trust has partnered with local schools to bring healthy homes education directly into classrooms across the region.

Between June and September, the programme engaged:

- 3 participating schools
- 9 classrooms
- An estimated 270 students

Each student received educational resources designed to support hands-on learning around healthy homes, energy efficiency, moisture, ventilation, and heat loss.

Key Results

- 1,350 educational booklets produced
- 675 booklets distributed to students
- 126 completed workbooks returned

The completed workbooks provided valuable insight into student engagement and understanding of Healthy Homes concepts.



Feedback Highlights

Students shared learnings such as:

"I learnt that a damp home is bad for your health and costs more money to heat."

"I learnt mould can cause breathing problems."

Teachers responded positively to the programme, with comments including:

"This is an amazing initiative."

"The kids are going to love this."

Community Impact



The Heat Kits into Schools initiative goes beyond education — it creates opportunities for long-term positive change within homes and communities.

When tamariki understand how warmth, ventilation, and moisture affect wellbeing, they become confident advocates for healthier living environments. The programme encourages conversations at home, helping whānau recognise small changes that can improve comfort, health, and energy efficiency.

By placing practical tools and knowledge directly into students' hands, the programme helps:

- Increase awareness around healthy homes
- Promote energy efficiency and sustainability
- Encourage healthier living habits
- Strengthen connections between schools and whānau
- Empower young people with lifelong knowledge and confidence

At WISE Charitable Trust, we believe that investing in tamariki today helps build warmer, healthier, and more resilient communities for the future.

Looking ahead

The programme continues to evolve, with plans to introduce differentiated workbook options to better support varying learning needs and increase engagement and completion rates in future delivery.

Organised by WISE Charitable Trust – supporting local families for 25 years.

If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch with us at enquiries@wise.org.nz



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