



**New Zealand Centre  
for Gifted Education**  
*Empowering Extraordinary Minds*



# MindPlus Clubs

## Guide for Parents and Teachers

New Zealand Centre  
for Gifted Education

[www.nzcge.co.nz](http://www.nzcge.co.nz)  
0800 769 243

# MindPlus Clubs Guide for Parents

**Updated 1 December 2022**

Welcome!

*Whāngai ka tupu ka puawai.  
That which is nurtured, blossoms then grows*

At the New Zealand Centre for Gifted Education our vision is that all gifted kids in Aotearoa get the specialist educational support they need to thrive and achieve their full potential. Around 47,000 primary school aged students in Aotearoa - of all ethnicities, genders and socio-economic backgrounds - were born with brains wired to learn faster, retain more and think more deeply than other kids.

We are delighted that your child/student has joined MindPlus Clubs, and we have put together this quick guide for you, covering:

- About MindPlus
- About MindPlus Clubs
- How can I support my child?
- How can I get help?

If you have any programme questions, don't hesitate to contact our Head of Programmes Madelaine Armstrong Willcocks on [madelaine.willcocks@nzcge.co.nz](mailto:madelaine.willcocks@nzcge.co.nz).

For any day-to-day administrative questions, our office team is very happy to talk with you on 0800 769 243 or [hello@nzcge.co.nz](mailto:hello@nzcge.co.nz). Our contact details are all [here](#).

# About MindPlus

## What is the New Zealand Centre for Gifted Education?

The New Zealand Centre for Gifted Education is a not-for-profit organisation that provides support for gifted children. Over the last 25 years, we've nurtured the talents of thousands of gifted children, and given expert support to their parents and teachers. Read more about our [whakapapa](#), our [vision](#), and our [impact](#).

## What does NZCGE do?

NZCGE operates the MindPlus family of programmes, providing specialised support for gifted learners, face-to-face in our units, online, or in your school. We also support teachers and schools at the 'chalk-face' of meeting the needs of the gifted kids in your classes.

## What do you teach at MindPlus?

All of our programmes use our specialist curriculum that targets the intellectual, creative, social and emotional needs of our gifted learners. Our programmes offer:

- A specialist teacher
- A small group of other like-minded students to share and learn with
- Our specialist curriculum that: develops their thinking and conceptual skills (Conceptual Development); allows them to dive into strength areas (Talent Development); and helps build the social and emotional skills they need to thrive (Personal Development)

MindPlus Clubs are part of the Talent Development programme, bringing like minds together in areas of interest, but will also bring in aspects of Conceptual and Personal Development as students think about issues in their talent area, challenge themselves and work with others.

## What other programmes do you have?

Our MindPlus programmes offer a variety of ways to access MindPlus in order to meet the needs of students and families in different situations. They are:

- MindPlus OurSchool - Our flagship one day school programme for Y2-8 students in 13 units across NZ
- MindPlus YourSchool - Schools run our MindPlus programme for gifted Y2-10 students at their own schools
- MindPlus Online - Y2-10 students work online with our specialist teacher for a half day per week, from school or home
- MindPlus Clubs - Students explore interests and passions with like-minded gifted kids across Aotearoa, as part of their existing MindPlus programme or, from 2023, as a standalone programme

You can find out more about our range of programmes on our website [here](#).

## About MindPlus Clubs

### Who can join a MindPlus Club?

MindPlus students who are part of our OurSchool, YourSchool and Online programmes will access MindPlus Clubs as part of their Talent Development work. Their MindPlus teacher will support them to access the club or clubs they want to join. Students can also continue to access MindPlus Clubs once they leave these programmes, to stay in touch with their friends and to inspire and help develop the club community. In time, we may develop a Senior and Junior version of the Clubs.

In 2023, we will be trialling offering MindPlus Clubs to gifted students who are not current or previous MindPlus students.

### What does MindPlus Clubs cost?

MindPlus Clubs are free for students currently enrolled in one of our other MindPlus programmes and for MindPlus alumni.

### When does a MindPlus Club meet?

MindPlus Clubs are online all the time so Club members can pop in whenever they would like. Each Club holds a live online event once each term for anyone who is available to come along to. We also hold annual in-person Club Days in a different city in New Zealand each year.

### What are the MindPlus Clubs?

We have 10 MindPlus Clubs, each led by one or more MindPlus specialist teachers (the Club Lead(s)). Each has a broad scope and includes:

MindPlus Club	Description
Creative Writers	For those full of words and ideas with tales to tell, keen writers of all genres
Readers	For passionate book-worms who would love to talk about what they read
Coders	For techie types that love to create using coding, including digital game developers, animators and creators
Artists & Artisans	For the painters, sculptors, photographers, potters, felters, weavers, sewers, embroiderers
Designers	For the practical creators, including aspiring architects, fashion designers, product designers, graphic designers
Changemakers	For those who really want to make a difference for others and for their world, including environmentalists, social entrepreneurs, politicians, animal rights campaigners

Scientists	For any science enthusiasts who would like to explore scientific thinking in any branch of science
Mathematicians	For keen number-crunchers and those who use maths in other areas
Historians	For all those who love the past, including the ancient world, broad historical periods and themes, and how the past shapes our present and future
Dreamers	For those who love to dream up and dream about created worlds like Dungeons and Dragons, film-making, world creation, idea-machines!

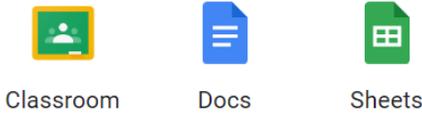
**What do the Club Leads do?**

Our Club Leads set up the learning activities and support students as they connect and engage. They are available to answer questions from students but this may not be immediate. Club Leads do not 'mark' or assess students' work, as the learning activities are deliberately open-ended and flexible.

**How does my child/student get started?**

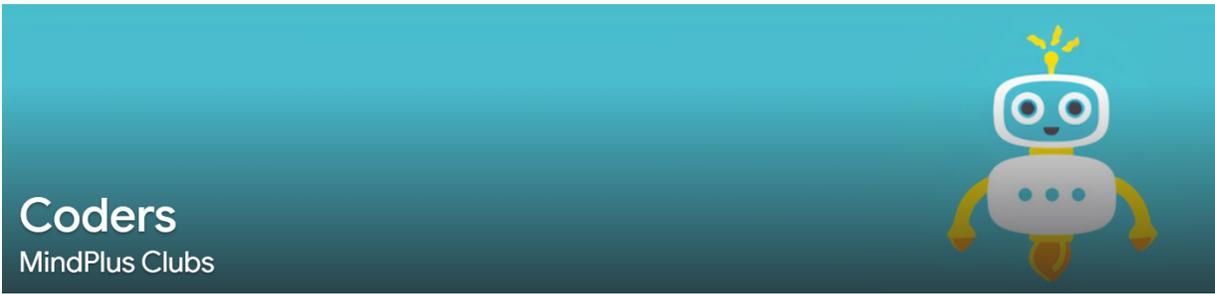
Once they are enrolled in the Club they will receive a Google Log in and password, along with a Club code. Follow these instructions to get started:

**How to join your MindPlus Club:**

Sign in to Google	
Enter the student NZCGE Google log in and password. You can find these in Hero.	
Click on the 9 dots	
Click on Classroom	

Click on Join class	<p>Add a class to get started</p> <p><b>Join class</b></p>
Enter the Club code	<p>Class code Ask your teacher for the class code, then enter it here.</p> <p>Class code</p>
Click on Join	<p><b>Join</b></p>
<b>Congrats! You have joined your MindPlus Club!</b>	

### What's in the MindPlus Club Classroom?

 <p><b>Coders</b> MindPlus Clubs</p>	
<p><b>Stream</b>    Classwork    People</p>	<p>The <b>Stream</b> is the place for chat about the Club, your learning, your work, questions and sharing. It's also the place where your Club Teacher will share news, events and new challenges!</p>
<p>Stream    <b>Classwork</b>    People</p>	<p>The <b>Classwork</b> is where you will find learning activities to choose from. Find out more about each of these below.</p>
<p>Stream    Classwork    <b>People</b></p>	<p>The <b>People</b> section is where you will find the names of your Club Lead Teachers and other Club members.</p>

## What is the Classwork?

The Club Classwork is the learning experiences that each Club member can choose from. MindPlus teachers will help students put together a programme of work in the Club that suits their strengths and needs and will regularly conference with students about their progress.

MindPlus Club Activities	Description
Thinking like a ... introductory task	<b>This activity is compulsory for all Club members.</b> It gets students thinking about what it means to be learning and thinking in that field. For example, in the Coders Club, what does a Coder actually do and how does a Coder think?
Getting started activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Tasters</li> <li>● Tutorials</li> </ul>	There are two sets of activities that are useful for those beginning in the Club area: <b>Tasters</b> are short, sharp and high interest activities to introduce students to exciting aspects of the Club area. For example in the Historians Club a Taster activity introduces students to what education was like in ancient Athens. <b>Tutorials</b> are guided learning activities that build specific skills or understandings in the Club area. For example in the Artists and Artisans Club there's a Tutorial introducing students to blocking techniques.
Digging deeper activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Badges</li> </ul>	To go further in the Club area, <b>Badges</b> are a structured, ordered sequence of up to ten activities to complete that build knowledge and skill in the Club area. For example the <b>Scientists Badge</b> introduces students to key areas of science and scientific thinking, having some fun along the way.
High flying activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Talent or Service Projects</li> </ul>	For those ready for more independent learning, <b>Projects</b> guide students through the process of developing their own pathway, either with an inquiry learning focus or a service or action focus.
Join if you can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Talent Activator Sessions</li> <li>● MindPlus Clubs Days</li> </ul>	Each term, each Club will have a <b>Talent Activator Session</b> , bringing like minds together with an invited guest online to talk about the Club area. We welcome all Club members to join these sessions as time permits, and some will be recorded. Each year, we hold a <b>MindPlus Club Day</b> , bringing together all Club members for an action-packed day of learning and fun together.
You might also find: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bonus Club Challenges</li> </ul>	From time to time you will also find <b>Bonus Challenges</b> in each Club, adding an additional fun learning experience.

## **How do MindPlus Clubs keep students safe online?**

MindPlus Clubs is designed to encourage students to interact with each other, share ideas and thoughts, and potentially to collaborate. Like you, we are committed to ensuring a safe, positive and inclusive learning environment in MindPlus Clubs. We recognise that students need support to operate safely and effectively in an online environment and to act with respect and thoughtfulness - these are skills that need to be developed and practised. We support positive online interaction in a number of ways:

- Each year, all MindPlus Club members sign a Code of Conduct that is discussed and signed also by a teacher or parent. Club Lead teachers often refer students back to this Code of Conduct.
- The Code of Conduct asks students to commit to not taking Clubs discussions onto another chat platform such as Discord or Instagram. If parents or teachers see this happening, please let us know at [hello@nzcge.co.nz](mailto:hello@nzcge.co.nz)
- Activity in the Google Classroom (chat in the Stream and student comments) is moderated by the Club Leads during the week and during the school term. Outside of this time, students are muted which means that they are not able to chat or comment in the Google Classroom, but are still able to access all the resources within it and do their own work.
- Club Lead teachers may also 'mute' students in the Stream as needed.
- Parents can request that their child not have access to the Stream at all or over a particular period. Please get in touch with [hello@nzcge.co.nz](mailto:hello@nzcge.co.nz) to do this.

We also ask parents and teachers to keep an eye on what students are doing in Clubs, both as a positive way to encourage and promote great work, and to ensure positive online behaviour is happening.

## Our Commitment to You

We are committed to providing you and your students with:

- A high quality specialist programme designed to meet the needs of gifted kids, in a like-minded group in safe, warm and inclusive online learning environment
- Opportunities to connect with us and our MindPlus whānau and to learn more about giftedness and gifted education

We know that you are just as committed to the success of our students. Our expectations of you are that you:

- Get involved in your child's/student's learning in MindPlus Clubs. Ask them about what they are doing, work on activities together, share ideas and questions.
- Make the most of us! We are your gifted specialists 'on tap' and are always more than happy to connect, chat and problem-solve with you.
- For parents and teachers, join us on [Teachable](#) to learn more about MindPlus
- For teachers, join [GiftedNEX](#), our FREE network of expertise that connects you with other teachers just like you, for informal support and free professional learning opportunities.

## How can I support my child with MindPlus Clubs?

MindPlus Clubs are a great way for students to connect with like minds and explore a range of learning opportunities. We know that, like us, you want your child to learn and thrive. Here are our some tips for making MindPlus Clubs really successful for your child.

- **Set aside time**

In MindPlus programmes, students have regular Talent Development time each week where they will work on planned activities including MindPlus Clubs. At home, you could support MindPlus Clubs by checking in with your child about their Club experiences each week.

- **Connect with others and with the learning experiences**

Encourage and support your child to take up the opportunities to connect with like minds - for instance by sharing regularly in the Stream, asking questions, sharing ideas and responding to comments. Support your child to make the most of the learning experiences as well, for instance by asking them about their learning, working through an activity with them or by supporting them in finding information or ideas. Remember that the only compulsory task is the introductory one and after that, students can design their own pathway through Club learning experiences

- **Get involved**

We know that the more involved our students get, the more they gain from their Club experience. To support them to get involved, find out more about the Talent Activator Chats, Club Days and Club Meets Ups and help them make time to come to one of these if possible.

## Where can we get help?

### For Tech Help:

If you need help with Google Log in, password or the Club Code, or for tech trouble-shooting:

- Ask your child's MindPlus teacher
- Check Hero
- Or contact us at [hello@nzcge.co.nz](mailto:hello@nzcge.co.nz)

If you and your child would like to learn more about online safety, explore [The Inter-Yeti](#), a highly recommended interactive learning tool.

### For Learning Help:

If you would like support with your child's learning in MindPlus Clubs:

- Get in touch with the Club Lead or your child's MindPlus teacher
- Or contact us at [hello@nzcge.co.nz](mailto:hello@nzcge.co.nz)