



Rotokauri
PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Tēnā koutou katoa,

The Rotokauri School Board acknowledges with concern the recent decision of the Government to remove the explicit requirement for school boards to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi within the Education and Training Act 2020.

As a school community deeply rooted in the land of Rotokauri, our identity is shaped by our whakapapa, our connection to tangata whenua, and our shared responsibility as kaitiaki of this place. It is our firm commitment that Te Tiriti o Waitangi will continue to be embedded in our governance, decision-making and daily actions at Rotokauri School.

Our position is supported by a substantial body of educational research demonstrating that culturally sustaining practice, strong partnerships with whānau, and learning environments that recognise identity and belonging improve educational engagement, wellbeing and achievement for *all learners*. National analyses from the Education Review Office (ERO) and the New Zealand Council for Educational Research (NZCER), together with international evidence from UNESCO and other governing educational institutions, consistently demonstrate that inclusive and culturally responsive schooling leads to stronger academic outcomes, better participation and attendance, reduced disparities and safer school cultures across diverse education systems.

Our vision at Rotokauri School is:

Together We Grow: Unity (Kotahitanga): Inclusive (Manaakitanga): Guardianship (Kaitiakitanga);

Together We Learn: Innovative (Auahatanga): Happy (Uruhau): Responsible (Tūtika).

Despite legislative change, our Board remains steadfast in our commitment to:

- Ensuring that every learner and whānau at our kura experience learning environments which honour their identity, culture and place of belonging;
- Ensuring all tamariki are supported to achieve equitable outcomes through rich, culturally sustaining programmes and meaningful inclusion in every aspect of school life;
- Upholding the partnership between mana whenua and the Crown, and recognising the vital role our school plays within our local community.

At Rotokauri School this means we will continue to:

- Embed Te Tiriti o Waitangi through our strategic planning and priorities;
- Engage in meaningful partnerships with our Māori whānau, hapū and iwi and acknowledging our connection with Ngāti Maahanga and the wider Waikato-Tainui, to listen, learn and co-create the future of our kura together;
- Foster development in te reo Māori, tikanga Māori, mātauranga Māori and cultural competency across all classes;
- Maintain a culturally responsive and inclusive learning environment where every tamariki can learn and thrive;
- Sustain a school culture of safe belonging and positive identity for Māori and non-Māori learners alike.

Kia manaaki, kia whakatupu, kia whakatutuki.

Ngā manaakitanga,

Brad Kells

Chair, Rotokauri School Board

Desiree Smith

Principal, Rotokauri School