

Thorndon School Policy on Māori Achievement and Te Reo Me Ōna Tikanga Māori (Maori language and culture).

Rationale

Our policy has been developed on the premise that the Treaty of Waitangi is the founding document of New Zealand/Aotearoa, and as such provides for a partnership between Māori as Tangata Whenua and the Crown as the provider of educational services.

Our vision is that Thorndon School will contribute in a meaningful way to improving the achievement of Māori students and create opportunities for the whole school to experience, understand and celebrate te reo me ona tikanga Māori/the Māori Language and Culture as an inherent and special part of our community.

Purpose

- To develop clear and realistic policies, plans and targets for improving the achievement of Māori students (as per NAG 1v and NAG 2 iii);
- To provide learning opportunities for Māori students that promote and foster te reo me ona tikanga Māori.
- To provide all students with a learning experience and wider school environment that promotes and fosters te reo me ona tikanga Māori.
- To provide opportunities and encourage participation by all staff and the Board of Trustees, in initiatives that improves their understanding and appreciation of Te reo me ona tikanga Māori.

Guidelines

Māori achievement

- That the school place a particular emphasis on gathering and analysing information on the achievement of Māori students across the curriculum and take proactive steps to improve outcomes for these students where necessary.

Possible initiative: ensure that all achievement data collected can be disaggregated by ethnicity, that this is reported to the Board and parents of Māori students on a regular basis, and that curriculum planning and delivery place a special focus on addressing the particular needs of Māori students where necessary.

Māori language

- That te reo Māori remains an important part of the school curriculum

Possible initiative: All students, and in particular Māori students, are provided with and encouraged to participate in Māori language (e.g language classes) and cultural (e.g kapa haka, Taiaha etc) learning opportunities.

Māori perspective and consultation

- That a Māori perspective be sought and incorporated (where practicable) into all aspects of school governance, management, operations and curriculum delivery.

Possible initiative: Invite all Māori parents and relevant local iwi groups (e.g the Wellington Tenth Trust) to provide comment on this policy, and suggest ways by which the school could be more responsive to the needs of Māori in relation to its governance, management, operations and curriculum delivery.