

WAITOTARA SCHOOL CHARTER 2020

Mission

A supportive environment where students will achieve the skills and attitudes needed to be confident learners in the 21st century.

Values

Determination

Respect
Initiative
Virtue
Empathy

Vision

Waitotara School learners will be:

Connected and confident communicators, collaborators, self-managers and thinkers that show resilience and drive their own learning.

Our Principles

- Our curriculum will provide opportunities and the support required for every student to be the best they can be regardless of their circumstances.
- Students at Waitotara School drive their own learning through student agency, understanding how they learn best, what they need to learn and what tools they need to achieve this.
- Waitotara School will provide an inclusive environment through recognising and valuing each student's culture, whakapapa and that learning opportunities address the learning needs in an equitable manner.
- The staff and students will understand and acknowledge the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. We will provide students with the opportunity to acquire Te Reo and Tikanga Maori skills and knowledge. We will work alongside our local iwi, Ngāi Raukū, to achieve this.
- We will provide students a wide range of learning experiences across all learning areas. Community involvement and a balanced delivery of learning areas are required.
- Building capability of our staff through current pedagogy and practices will ensure our curriculum is evolving, relevant and engaging thus providing students with the skills needed to succeed in the future.

Māori Dimensions and Cultural Diversity

Waitotara School's curriculum statements and policy documentation will recognise the unique position of Māori, the dual heritage of New Zealand and its cultural diversity. It will provide students with experiences and understandings in cultural traditions, language and local and national histories including personal experiences where practicable. The Board will continue to consult with the Māori community and wider community on Charter development.

This will occur throughout the year as we liaise with the local Iwi, Ngāa Rauru. We will consult with the iwi on Māori student's progress and achievements. The Board will advise the current level of Te Reo and Tikanga Māori available at the school and consult with the parents and caregivers, advising them where the closest school is that provides a higher level of instruction in Te Reo and Tikanga Māori and offer to explore possibilities for extending the current provision.

Special Character

Waitotara School is a rural three class school providing a whanau environment where learning is personalised, tuakana teina is second nature and risk taking is encouraged. Our children have the unique opportunity to experience freedom and high levels of attention allowing individual personalities to shine without fear of judgement, prejudice or persecution. Students have a strong sense of belonging; with talents and individual characteristics celebrated. Confidence and leadership qualities are evident in all students. Waitotara School is a place where students love to come to learn.

Strategic Goals (2020-2022)

- Goal 1:** To accelerate the progress of students performing below expectations, particularly Māori and boys.
- Goal 2:** To further develop learning to learn strategies, student agency, key competencies, growth mindset and personalised learning in all students so that they can achieve in a flexible learning environment using our inquiry question, "Will a focus on developing students' capacity in persevering and using their initiative lead to accelerated progress for our target students?"
- Goal 3:** To ensure greater emphasis is placed on providing quality learning opportunities over the breadth of the New Zealand Curriculum, with a particular focus on integrating a new Digital Curriculum.
- Goal 4:** To increase attendance throughout the school and to make an impact on students transitioning to Waitotara School.