

Policy on the teaching of te reo Māori (Māori language) and tikanga Māori (Māori culture)

This policy is written specifically to show the community how the school will respond if a parent seeks further instruction for their child in te Reo or tikanga Māori.

The curriculum recognises the unique position of Māori as tangata whenua in Aotearoa/ New Zealand. Te reo Māori is the language of tangata whenua and as such is an official language of New Zealand and a taonga or treasure in the terms of the Treaty of Waitangi. Students at our school will have the opportunity to learn some re reo Māori and to experience tikanga Māori¹.

All Māori content should enable connections between the children and the locally relevant stories, creation narratives, songs and places of significance, so as to build and enhance connection to place and connection to the traditional people of this area.

Steiner education worldwide recognises the importance of children learning their own and other people's cultures and language. This is embedded in the school curriculum.

When a child is enrolled at the school, the school will outline its approach to the teaching of te reo and tikanga Māori in the special character interview with parents. Should a parent seek further instruction for their child in te reo or tikanga Māori, then the Principal will ensure that the parent is fully informed on the curriculum available. The group will then review whether there are sufficient resources to meet the request at the school or whether there are other more appropriate avenues to follow.

The Board is accountable for the school following this policy and the Principal is responsible for ensuring this policy is followed. Teaching staff are also responsible to the Principal for following the policy and are consulted with on any changes. The school parent community is informed of this policy when their child is enrolled via the Parent Handbook, and prior to any changes.

Signed: _____

Dated: ____/____/____ Review Date: ____/____/____
21 August 2019

¹ Kāi Tahu is the nationally recognised iwi that has manawhenua (traditional authority over the land) across the Otago district, coastal and central, as well as most of the South Island. This mana is held at a rūnaka level by Kāti Huirapa rūnaka ki Puketeraki at Karitane, and Te Rūnanga o Otakou, at Otakou. Kāi Tahu has a different dialect, that is, they replace the use of NG, with a K. The school has resources to teach oral and written Te Reo using the generalised dialect free Te Reo. When we speak of iwi, people, places and events that are connected to the local iwi, and in the karakia and waiata we learn from this area, we use the local dialect. We are not resourced to do more than this. If we are fortunate enough to get a Te Reo teacher from Kāi Tahu then we would teach the local dialect, but also teach the "national" Te Reo so that the pupils have learnt both, are able to understand both.