



ST FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC SCHOOL TREATY OF WAITANGI POLICY

RATIONALE

Our school acknowledges the importance of the Treaty of Waitangi as a founding document in New Zealand and we recognise the New Zealand Catholic Bishops statement that the Treaty is "a covenant, and a taonga (sacred treasure)", thereby affirming the commitment of the Catholic Church to bicultural relationships in society and in the Church itself.

Whilst our school reflects New Zealand's multiculturalism, the Treaty itself is the basis of biculturalism. Our bicultural commitment requires that we engage in partnership with Maori and fully support them in their right to cultural identity.

Saint Francis Xavier Catholic School has a responsibility to honor the Principles of the Treaty and apply these in our teaching and learning environments in particular those of Partnership, Protection and Participation:

- **Partnership** refers to commitment to an ongoing relationship between the School and the Maori Community.
- **Protection** creates an obligation for the School to proactively protect Māori education interests. This implies that the School will seek out opportunities to enhance educational opportunities in Maori culture for all children and encourage positive strategies to enrich the educational experiences of Maori.
- **Participation** encompasses building the capacity for Māori participation at all levels within the school; enabling the Māori community to identify and provide for their own educational needs; and fostering and supporting Māori staff development and initiatives.

GUIDELINES

1. Teaching programmes will reflect Māori perspectives wherever possible by incorporating **Te Tikanga Māori** and **Te Reo Māori** by way of : song, myths and legends, arts and crafts, physical fitness and performing arts.
2. Allowance will be made for opportunities in class and around the school to teach or model curriculum directed Māori language (at appropriate levels) including basic greetings, farewells, instructions, and every day phrases.
3. Where possible, opportunity will be offered for students to extend their Māori language skills and participate in a Kapa Haka group

4. The Board of Trustees, principal and staff will make every effort to model correct Māori pronunciation and protocol. Professional development and support will be pursued where necessary.
5. The Board of Trustees, Principal and staff will make every effort to connect with, consult with and harness the collective knowledge and support of whanau, hapū and iwi particularly in areas concerning **Te Tikanga Māori** and **Te Reo Māori** or any educational issues that impact Māori children.
6. Where possible consideration should be given for incorporating some of the following components of New Zealand and/or Māori life :- tangi, kai/ hakari/hangi, marae, hui also tapu, wairua, mauri, mana, aroha and manaakitanga.

CONCLUSION

By following the guidelines set, the Māori children of Saint Francis Xavier Catholic School will experience an opportunity to learn in an environment which is culturally responsive to them. This is important in the development of their self-worth and identity. Non-Māori children will also benefit in the provision of opportunities to share in things unique to New Zealand and which will contribute to cross-cultural understanding.

References used:

Our Bicultural Commitment by Rev Henare Tate, Vicar for Maori, Diocese of Auckland
The Nathaniel Centre website

*Approved by: A Luxford
Chairperson*

Date Reviewed: Term 4, 2015

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