



Timaru Christian School Procedures

C3 - Cultural Diversity

Recognition of Cultural Diversity

We cater for a number of cultures by celebrating cultural difference as appropriate.

We respect the special position of Māori as tangata whenua (the indigenous people) of New Zealand and Te Reo Māori (Māori language) as an official New Zealand language in accordance with our commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi. In recognising the unique position of the Māori culture, we provide instruction in tikanga (culture) and te reo Māori for students.

We currently foster Māori culture through:

- teaching te reo Māori to an elementary level (greetings, counting, mihi, basic vocabulary for everyday items, pronunciation of place names)
- singing waiata (Māori songs) in assembly, and classroom music time.
- using resources in the curriculum (especially reading, maths, science, social studies, art, music and phys. ed) which recognise New Zealand's dual cultural heritage
- integrating Māori through all curriculum areas where appropriate
- visits to marae in Year 5/6 (every second year)
- introducing new concepts regularly for short periods of time to develop skills of staff and students, enabling integration into other curriculum areas, making it a more natural process

If a whānau requests a higher level of tikanga and/or te reo, staff and family will discuss and explore the following options:

- further explanation of existing programmes
- extension of the existing programmes if and as appropriate
- combining with a neighbouring school for parts of the day/programme
- providing in-school support and resources to further enhance inclusion of te reo and tikanga Māori within the child's classroom
- using community expertise (people and places) to help with any of the above



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We also celebrate and value a variety of cultures by recognising cultural difference as appropriate, for example:

- integration of cultural perspectives throughout unit studies across all levels
- consultation of Maori and Pasifika families every two years
- accessing cultural advisors, cultural dance/food festivals, as appropriate
- classroom programme incorporates different greetings
- offering a second language to Year 7&8 students



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Improve Educational Outcomes for Māori Students

Our charter includes aims that reflect the unique position of Māori culture in New Zealand society. These aims promote the value of te reo (Māori language) and tikanga Māori (Māori culture).

The board and staff consult with the Māori community every second year. This assists with preparation of our school charter. These aims are in accordance with the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and are legal requirements in relation to Māori under the Education Act, 1989.

Timaru Christian School regularly monitors and reports on Māori student achievement. To ensure success for Māori students, Timaru Christian School:

- uses the Ministry of Education's five-year plan Ka Hikitia – Managing for Success: The Māori Education Strategy 2013-2017 in our thinking, planning, and action for Māori learners
- tracks the achievement of all Maori students
- identifies any areas where a Māori student's educational achievement is not in line with peers
- ensures that support programmes for Māori students are provided, if necessary
- supports staff in implementing effective practices that promote success for Māori students
- evaluates the impact of these programmes and practices and uses this information in our self review
- reports regularly on the progress of Māori students to parents, the board, and the Ministry of Education, as required by Nag 2a relating to National Standards.

Date of last review: Term 1, 2014
Date of next review: Term 1, 2017

Signed _____