

St John's School Ranfurly

Recognition of Cultural Diversity

St Joh's School Ranfurly celebrates New Zealand's fast growing cultural diversity and ensures that all students feel culturally safe and valued. Our cultural diversity is a valuable resource for 21st-century learning.

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

integrating cultural perspectives through curriculum areas across all levels
convening parent support groups and meetings
accessing cultural advisors, cultural dance/food festivals
conducting classroom programmes incorporating different greetings
embracing & using NZ sign language throughout our school programmes

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

We currently foster Maori culture through:

- teaching re reo Maori to an elementary level (greetings, counting, mihi, basic vocabulary for everyday items, pronunciation and translation of place names)
- singing waiata (Maori songs) in assembly, and classroom music time
- using resources in the curriculum (especially reading, maths, science, social studies, art, music, PE and RE) which recognises New Zealand's dual cultural heritage
- integrating Maori through all curriculum areas where appropriate
- visits to marae and cultural centres, and fostering relationships with local iwi.
- through attending, participating & performing at biannual area Kapahaka Festival.

If a whanau 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 Maori within the child's classroom
- exploring other schools which may offer programmes closer to their expectations
- using community expertise (people and places) to help with any of the above.

We also respect the place of the Pasifika people and culture in New Zealand and foster it through integrating Pasifika into curriculum areas, where appropriate.

We have considered the Pasifika Education Plan (PEP) 2013-2017 and its relative significance for our school. We support its vision to see “Five out of five Pasifika learners participating, engaging, and achieving in education, secure in their identities, languages and cultures and contributing to Aotearoa New Zealand’s social, cultural and economic well-being”.

- Pasifika dance group