

Recognition of Cultural Diversity

RATIONALE:

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.

GUIDELINES:

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) on a regular schedule.

As well we all participate in:

- singing waiata (Māori songs) in assembly, and classroom music time.
- using resources in the curriculum (especially reading, maths, science, social studies, art, Music and Health and Physical Education which recognise New Zealand's dual cultural heritage
- integrating Māori through all curriculum areas where appropriate
- visits to marae.
- embrace any opportunities that value cultural diversity.

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
- exploring other options which may offer programmes closer to their expectations
- using community expertise (people and places) to help with any of the above.

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

- integration of cultural perspectives throughout inquiry learning unit studies across all levels
- convening parent support groups and meetings
- accessing cultural advisors.
- classroom programmes incorporating different greetings.

Reviewed: Term 2 2017

.....**Chairperson, BOT**

Review date: 2020