



Rongomai School

Empowered to Take Risks; Determined to Succeed



VISION

Whaia te iti kahurangi, ki te tuohu koe, me he maunga teitei.

Aspire to the greatest heights, should you bow, be it to a lofty mountain.

MISSION

Empowered to take risks. Determined to succeed.

R.I.C.H VALUES

Respect

Whakaute

Integrity

Ngakau Pono

Courage

Mātātoa

Heritage

Ngā Taonga Tuku Iho

Welcome

At Rongomai School, we have a team of innovative, hardworking, passionate and caring teachers and support staff. We work extremely hard as a team to ensure that we provide the most culturally and academically rich learning experiences for all our tamariki.

Rongomai Heritage

Rongomai School has a proud, rich heritage. Our namesake, Rongomai was a chief on Te Mahuhu -ki-te-Rangi waka. Legend has it that his waka came to rest near our site on the East Tamaki estuary around 1350. At that time he saw a big flock of seagulls which was a sign of great wealth and rich soil. During his time, Rongomai lived and married into the local iwi. Unfortunately, he drowned when his waka capsized near the Kaipara Harbour. Rongomai was eaten by trevally fish so out of respect for their tupuna, the local iwi have not and still do not eat trevally. (Information taken by Te Uri o Hau: North Kaipara reading).

Rongomaitanga - The Rongomai Way

Our school is made up of children mainly from Māori and Pasifika backgrounds, and it is important to us that we create an environment that supports, enhances and imbues pride in our students. We do our best to afford proper respect to tikanga Māori (Māori protocols) and tangata whenua (people of the land) so our students are exposed, even if in a small way, to the beautiful attributes of Māori culture. Rongomaitanga is significant to our curriculum design; enabling us to create a curriculum that is localised, authentic and meaningful to our community. Because of these factors, we can acquire the stories of Rongomai School - the korero about our whenua, landmarks and objects unique to Rongomai; the people of Rongomai School (past and present); the challenges and the victories endured and celebrated over time.

Rongomaitanga is an expression of our beliefs and values of what we aspire to live by, to be and therefore, determines the culture of our school – The Rongomai Way. The true essence of Rongomaitanga is providing an education that is founded on inclusion, aroha, whanaungatanga, respect, integrity, courage and heritage.

Te Wheke – A Celebration of Infinite Wisdom

Te Wheke written by Rangimarie Pere, provides a selection of simple ancient teachings of Hawaiki that stretches into the past, present and future. These ancient teachings/concepts are weaved into our long term unit plans and therefore taught to our tamariki.

Graduate Profiles

Rongomai School's Graduate Profiles articulates what success looks like for our Rongomai tamariki. It is important for us that our tamariki experience success and achievement as themselves. The Graduate Profile provides a progression of stages of success for our students according to their ethnicity. Rongomai's definition of success is seeing Māori achieving as Māori, Cook Islanders achieving as Cook Islanders and Samoan achieving as Samoan etc.

Nga Kupu Kapua

Our school has implemented into our daily programmes Nga Kupu Kapua - developed by Dr Henare King. Nga Kupu Kapua is a programme that exposes our tamariki and staff to as many kupu (Māori vocabulary) as possible. We will achieve this by using the 5+ a day concept. For example, our students and staff will be exposed to five kupu per day, 25 kupu per week which will translate into 2,500 kupu over 100 weeks. Our aim is to expose our tamariki and staff to at least 2,500 kupu over a period of 3 years at least.

Cultural Diversity

Our school shall reflect New Zealand's cultural diversity and all stakeholders will be encouraged to value the differences in each other by:

- Celebrating cultural days, performances and the arts.
- Incorporating cultural dimensions into learning and teaching programmes. Providing resources that reflect our school's cultures.
- Implementing programmes that promote partnerships between school, home and the wider community.

Māori Culture

The unique place of Māori culture and customs will play an important part in the way Rongomai School operates. A vital element of our school is the success of Māori as Māori, our students' desire for identity – their

place in the world, their sense of belonging and connection, their integration, their understanding and their acceptance.

Steps to incorporate Tikanga Māori

Rongomai School will acknowledge tikanga Māori (Māori culture and protocols) by:

- Welcoming visitors, new staff, new students and their families with powhiri or whakataua.
- Celebrating and learning about Māori events.
- Strengthening students' learning about tikanga Māori.
- Identifying local and regional history.
- Embedding karakia, waiata into our daily routines.
- Providing opportunities for any interested student to be involved in kapa haka.
- Embedding tikanga Māori into our daily routines – normalisation.

We are not limited to the above and will continue to grow our knowledge and understanding of Māori tikanga, values and history.

Our school acknowledges and respects the language, heritage and culture of all our members. Rongomai School promotes and acknowledges Māori as tangata whenua and our obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi, reflecting the unique position of tikanga Māori. We will regularly consult with internal and external members from the Māori community i.e. teachers, kaumatua, kuia, cultural consultants and expert partners.

Pasifika Culture

The unique place of Pasifika cultures and customs play an important part in the way Rongomai School operates. A vital element of our school is the success of Pasifika as Pasifika, our students' desire for identity – their place in the world, their sense of belonging and connection, their integration, their understanding and their acceptance. We aim to embed as many aspects of Pasifika cultures as we can.

Culture Groups

These are times where our children will have the opportunity to learn the cultures of Māori and our people of the Pacific. This will include learning cultural values, basic language, traditions and customs, cultural performances and songs.

Maori and Pasifika Language Weeks

At Rongomai School, we proudly celebrate the Māori and Pasifika Language Weeks. This is not to say that we are restricted to celebrating Māori and Pasifika cultures in these weeks alone, as the language weeks are merely an opportunity for our school to highlight and learn in greater detail the facts, history and customs about each culture. The language weeks give us cause to embrace, celebrate and showcase who we are culturally and more often, bring together our school community in solidarity with pride.

Our School Community

Involvement with the local community is an integral part of Rongomai School. Parents have expectations of the school and are very supportive, assisting with school programmes and trips. Celebrating student success and cultural performances, award ceremonies and other events are well supported by parents and whanau.

External Services Providers

We are contracted to Mana Kids Health Services who provides our school with a community worker (Ipu Imo) to screen our students each week for sore throat or skin allergies, and a school nurse (Emmanuel Villamil) to perform basic health checks and follow ups with our whanau and local doctors.

In addition, we are partnered up with Te Tai Awa Social Services who provides our school social worker (Luz Mery Johnstone). Luz Mery works closely with our SENCO to access the support and services for our students and their whanau when needed.

We are fortunate to have RTLB (Resource Teachers of Learning and Behaviour) in our school who provide our teachers with excellent support, advice and guidance to support student learning.

Free Kai for our tamariki

Our school currently receives fruit from Kids Can. We also receive shoes and jackets.

Furthermore, we run a "Breakfast in Schools" programme which is supplied by Kids Can. All of our tamariki are welcome, no judgements or questions asked.

Our school is currently on the Free & Healthy Lunch programme which is funded by our government. Every student is provided with a free lunch every day of the school week.

One of our school's goals is to tap into our local businesses and resources to develop our produce garden. We want to provide our tamariki with learning opportunities to grow fruit and vegetables which will go towards feeding them and their families.

Onsite preschools and satellite class

We have 2 pre-schools on our school site - Sathya Sai Preschool (English speaking) and Poetiare Punanga Reo (Cook Islands speaking). We also have a Mt Richmond satellite class. All three of these centres have their own governing boards.

School Organisation

Our school is organised into three syndicates:

- Junior Syndicate – Y1-2 mainstream x2 classes, Y1-3 Cook Islands bilingual class.
- Middle Syndicate – Y3-4 mainstream x3 classes,
- Senior Syndicate – Y5-6 mainstream x 2 classes, Y4-6 Cook Islands bilingual class.

Students generally have the same teacher for 2 years. This structure allows a managed transition throughout the school and allows teachers and students the time needed to establish and strengthen positive relationships that support student wellbeing and learning.

Our ethnic make-up is currently 28% Maori, 1% Filipino, 2% European and 69% Pasifika (30% Samoan, 21% Cook Islands, 16% Tongan, 2% Niue).

STRATEGIC GOALS

	NELPs	Pacific Education Plan	Ka Hikitia
Goal 1a	Learners at the Centre Have high aspirations for every learner/akonga, and support these by partnering with their whānau and communities to design and deliver education that responds to their needs, and sustains their identities, languages and cultures.	Work reciprocally with diverse Pacific communities to respond to unmet needs, with an initial focus on needs arising from COVID 19 pandemic.	Te Whānau: Education provision responds to learners within the context of their whānau.
Goal 1b	Learners at the Centre Ensure places of learning are safe, inclusive and free from racism, discrimination and bullying.	Work reciprocally with diverse Pacific communities to respond to unmet needs, with an initial focus on needs arising from COVID 19 pandemic.	Te Whānau: Education provision responds to learners within the context of their whānau.
Goal 2	Barrier Free Access Reduce barriers to education for all, including for Māori and Pacific learners/akonga, disabled learners/akonga and those with learning support needs.	Confront systemic racism and discrimination in education.	Te Tangata: Māori are free from racism, discrimination and stigma in education.
Goal 3	Quality Teaching and Leadership Develop staff to strengthen teaching, leadership, and learner support capability across the education workforce.	Enable every teacher, leader and educational professional to take coordinated action to become culturally competent with diverse Pacific learners.	Te Marautanga: Māori are diverse and need to be understood in the context of their diverse aspirations and lived experiences.
Tapa Sā			
	Turu 1: Identities, languages and cultures.	Turu 2: Collaborative and respectful relationships & professional behaviours.	Turu 3: Effective Pacific Pedagogies.



OVERARCHING GOAL

To lift academic achievement in Reading, Writing and Mathematics

In Reading 53% of all students will be achieving AT or ABOVE expectation.

In Writing 45% of all students will be achieving AT or ABOVE expectation.

In Mathematics 75% of all students will be achieving AT or ABOVE expectation

Quality Teaching and Leadership Develop staff to strengthen teaching, leadership, and learner support capability across the education workforce.		Pacific Education Plan Enable every teacher, leader and educational professional to take coordinated action to become culturally competent with diverse Pacific learners.		Ka Hikitia Te Kanorautanga: Māori are diverse and need to be understood in the context of their diverse aspirations and lived experiences.
Tapasā	Turu 1 Identities, languages and cultures	Turu 2 Collaborative and respectful relationships & professional behaviours	Turu 3 Effective Pacific Pedagogies	
Outcome	Actions to meet outcome	Resources and Timeframe	Personnel	What will we see happening differently?
NELPS Develop staff to strengthen teaching, leadership, and learner support capability across the education workforce.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers applying high expectations for learner success Teachers supporting learners for positive engagement in learning Higher levels of student engagement in learning Teacher planning and student learning reflect outcomes Consistency of practice across the school 	Regular Walkthroughs and observations 2024-2025	SLT Teachers	Positive classroom culture through: high expectations, meaningful learning, high levels of student engagement.
Pacific Education Plan Enable every teacher, leader and educational professional to take coordinated action to become culturally competent with diverse Pacific learners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PLD refreshers around Tapasā, particularly for new staff. Continue to source resources which assist teachers and leaders to meet the needs of pasifika learners Identify new texts and stories to include in the learning which reflect learners' experiences 	Regular Walkthroughs and observations 2024-2025	SLT Teachers	Monitoring in each class and across the school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Well-Managed Learning Environment - Feedback & Feedforward - Monitoring impact of teaching

<p>Ka Hikitia Māori are diverse and need to be understood in the context of their diverse aspirations and lived experiences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and develop strategies for akonga whose needs have not yet been met • 	<p>2024-2025</p>	<p>SLT Teachers</p>	<p>Our education services will recognise and provide for Māori diversity. Our education workforce will have the right skills and capacity to support all Maori learners, including those with disabilities and learning support needs, to achieve excellent outcomes.</p>
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2023 Policies and Board Assurance Review Schedule <https://rongomai.schooldocs.co.nz/Yearly%20Board%20Assurances.pdf>

NELPS: [Click here to read more about the NELP](#)

