



24 November 2025

Hon Erica Stanford
Minister of Education
Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga / The Ministry of Education
Wellington 6140

Tēnā koe,

Arahunga School writes to confirm that, as a school and Board of Trustees, we are committed to continuing to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and oppose the Government's recent proposal to amend the Education and Training Act 2020 by removing the requirement for school boards to "give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi."

At Arahunga School, giving effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi guides how we teach, how we relate to one another, and how we support every child to thrive. We stand behind this commitment, as it reflects who we are as a community and strengthens the learning environment for all our students.

Honouring Te Tiriti means recognising the unique place of Māori as tangata whenua and ensuring that Te Ao Māori, tikanga, and te reo Māori are meaningfully woven into the daily life of our kura. When students see themselves, their culture, and their identity reflected in their learning, their sense of belonging and confidence grows. This benefits not only our Māori learners but every child in our kura, as they learn in a culturally inclusive, respectful, and diverse environment.

We have seen the positive impact of embracing our bicultural heritage through strengthened relationships, improved engagement, and richer learning opportunities. Our commitment to honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi is reflected in our school values, which guide us in all that we do:

Tū Rangatira – We are self-determining and are the best we can be

He Tangata – We are person-centred and value individual strengths and needs

Mana Tangata – We know and respect our stories

Whanaungatanga – Our relationships are based on shared understanding and are respectful and professional

As a kura, our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi remains strong, now and into the future because this is what is right for our ākonga, our whānau, and our wider community.

Ngā mihi nui,

Arahunga School Board of Trustees