AROHENA
SCHOOL

NAU MAI,
HAERE MAI
WELCOME

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2026 AROHENA STAFF

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2026 AROHENA BOARD

Presiding Member
Robbie Sherriff

Staff Representative
Jolene Saunders

Parent Representative
Katy List

Parent Representative
Cameron Te Brake

Parent Representative
Luke van Groenedaal

Parent Representative
Alister Tuoro

Tumuaki / Principal
Justine Kingi

WELCOME TO AROHENA SCHOOL

Ko Wharepūhunga te maunga
Ko Waikato te awa
Ko Tainui te waka
Ko Ngāti Raukawa te iwi
Ko Aotearoa te marae
Ko Hoturoa te Rangatira

Tuatahi ngā mihi ki te Atua.
Tuarua ngā mihi ki te Arikinui Kuini Nga wai hono i te po.
Tuatoru ngā mihi ki te haukāinga o tēnei wāhi, ko Raukawa.

Arohena School is a rural kura nestled in an attractive native bush setting with views of Maungatautari and is the hub of the Arohena District enjoying strong community support. We are minutes from the Waikato River, the popular Waikato River Trail and Lake Arapuni camping ground. We are thirty minutes from Te Awamutu, 25 minutes from Putāruru and Mangakino.

Arohena School caters for ākonga from New Entrant to Year 8 in multi-level learning environments. Our roll typically ranges between 20 and 40 learners.

The kura (school) facilities consist of three classrooms, a large multi-purpose room, library, tennis/netball courts, an adventure playground, rugby/soccer field, native bush, vegetable gardens and a community built swimming pool.

Arohena School is well resourced and supported by an active Board and engaged wider community. Our community is consulted annually to help guide and shape the future direction of the kura.

AROHENA SCHOOL VISION

At Arohena School, our vision is:

“Ko te kura hei whakamaumahara i te ako rawe mā mātou āno. Where learning is made memorable for everyone.”

This sits at the heart of all that we do and guides our commitment to the learning journey of our ākonga.

We believe learning should be more than simply acquiring knowledge. It should spark curiosity, build lasting understanding, and create meaningful experiences that ākonga remember with pride and enjoyment, as kaiako and ākonga grow together.

Arohena School continues to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi through our partnership with Ngāti Raukawa, who support the revitalising of our Responsive Environment Curriculum, previously known as the Local Curriculum. This partnership strengthens authentic learning by embedding local histories, mātauranga Māori, and community knowledge within the curriculum.

Through these experiences, ākonga develop a deeper understanding of their identity, whakapapa, and connection to the whenua, while building the confidence to engage with the wider world.

Our goal is that every ākonga leaves Arohena School equipped with the skills they need for the future, along with a sense of achievement, curiosity, and positive memories of learning.

AROHENA SCHOOL VALUES

In learning we value
Perseverance, Respect, Innovation, Drive and Empathy.
We call this having Arohena PRIDE.

Kaua e mate wheke, mate ururoa.	**P**	*Don't die like an octopus, die like a hammerhead.* Don't give up, persevere until the end. We always keep going, even when it's hard.
Manaaki mai, manaaki atu.	**R**	*Respect yourself and others.* •We use kind words •We use our manners •We look after ourselves, others and our place.
Mā te kimi ka kite, mā te kite ka mōhio, mā te mohio ka marama.	**I**	*Seek and discover. Discover and know. Know and become enlightened.* We can adapt and change, and do things in a different way.
Pai tū, pai hinga, nāwai rā ka oti.	**D**	*By standing and falling, eventually it will be completed.* We are enthusiastic learners and strive to do our best.
Nā koutou i tangi nā tātou katoa.	**E**	*When you cry, your tears are shed by all of us.* We understand and share the feelings of others.

CONTACTING THE KURA

The school phone number is 07 8724526 and the school cellphone is 027 276 4362.

Please send a text message to the school cellphone as it is checked regularly. You are also welcome to leave a message on the school answerphone. This operates when our Office Administrator is unavailable and teaching staff are in the classroom. Messages are cleared throughout the day.

The best times to speak with teaching staff are before and after school.

In case of an emergency please keep ringing, as we will endeavour to answer a continuous ringing phone.

Our e-mail address is admin@arohena.school.nz

For absences please message through HERO.

HERO APP & OTHER MEDIA

We use the HERO app to share messages about teaching and learning at school, along with specific updates and reporting about your child.

Our website provides a range of useful information for whānau, including details about our staff and board, our school calendar and timetable, and key updates about school life. It also includes helpful resources and an online enrolment form for new ākonga, making it easy to access information and stay connected with our kura.

We have a school Facebook page (www.facebook.com/arohenaschool) as well as a website (www.arohena.school.nz).

We also use the Skool Loop app, which can be downloaded free of charge. Our community newsletter is also available through Skool Loop.

STARTING SCHOOL

New entrant enrolments:
Parents enrolling a 5 year old for the first time are required to present a birth certificate and immunisation certificate. We prefer enrolment forms be completed online through our website (www.arohena.school.nz). Paper copies of enrolment forms are also available at the school office.

Arohena School encourages new children to visit prior to their 5th birthday, so that they can become familiar with the school environment, kaiako (teachers), ākonga and school routines. Times for these visits can be arranged by contacting the School Office. We enjoy a close relationship with the local Play-hub.

Other enrolments:
We welcome children to our school throughout the year. When possible it is beneficial for new ākonga to bring past exercise books and school reports. This can help their new kaiako to quickly get to know where they are at in their learning and begin a successful learning programme.

REPORTING TO PARENTS

Our goal is to support ākonga learning through open and ongoing information sharing. Written reports are provided in Terms Two and Four.

While formal Parent/Teacher interviews are optional, parents are welcome to arrange a meeting at any time after reports have been distributed to discuss their child's progress and next steps. If your child has an Individual Education Plan (IEP), their kaiako will make contact to arrange a Parent/Teacher interview.

Whānau are welcome to meet and chat with our teachers anytime throughout the year.

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Our school works with SchoolDocs for our policies and procedures. The site is live and available to our school community. SchoolDocs is used to maintain, update, and review our policies.

SchoolDocs provides us with a comprehensive core set of policies, which have been well researched and follow the Ministry of Education National Guidelines. The policies and procedures are tailored to our school, and the school supplies specific information.

SchoolDocs updates, modifies, or creates policies in response to changes in legislation or Ministry guidelines, significant events, reviews/requests from schools, and regular reviewing from the SchoolDocs team. Our school Board has the opportunity to view revisions and comment on them before they are implemented. We will advise you when policies are up for review and how you can take part in the review.

We invite you to visit the site at https://arohena.schooldocs.co.nz (note that there's no "www.").

Our username is **arohena**
Our password is **arohena3877**

HEALTH & SAFETY

Car parking:
Please do not park in Bus parking between 8.15am – 9am & 2.45pm – 4.15pm. Cars may be parked across the road from the kura.

Sun safety:
Arohena School is a sunsmart school. Children are encouraged to take sensible precautions against the sun. Sunhats and sunblock are compulsory Terms 1 & 4 and encouraged on sunny days Term 2 & 3. If your child does not bring a sunhat to school during Terms 1 & 2 they will be encouraged to sit in the shade during break. Sun block is provided, however we do encourage your child/ren to bring their own each day.

Medication / Sickness:
Children are only able to be given Pamol if parents have signed permission for headaches or high temperatures etc. We do not give any medication without prior parental permission. Parents may request staff to administer medication, but need to provide details and complete medicine form of dose, times etc. When children are too sick to be at school parents will be phoned and requested to collect them from school. If parents are unable to be contacted then we will phone emergency references listed on enrolment forms.

Absences: Parents are required to phone or text the school if children are absent from school. We will follow up on unexplained absences with a phone call. Messages may be left on HERO, the school cell phone or landline if your child/ren are absent from school.

Police Vetting: All volunteers supporting school camps are required to be police vetted prior to attending. This is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all ākonga and to meet our duty of care. Vetting helps us maintain a safe and secure environment where tamariki are well supported during off-site activities. Volunteers will be guided through the vetting process by the school prior to camp participation.

SCHOOL BUS

Tamariki are expected to be at the bus stop 5–10 minutes before the scheduled pick-up time and in a safe place.

When exiting the bus, tamariki must wait until the bus has moved off before crossing the road, to ensure their safety. In most instances, children will be picked up and dropped off on their side of the road.

After school, all tamariki who normally travel on the bus gather for roll checks. This supports whanaungatanga and ensures all tamariki are accounted for.

Our school bus service is provided by a private contractor, Neville Ormsby. The school bus driver will be either Mr Neville Ormsby or Mrs Noelene Ormsby, or relief drivers as required. The Bus Controller is the Room one kaiako, Moana Hohepa, who ensures the safe management of all tamariki travelling by bus.

We ask that whānau please contact the bus driver, Noelene Ormsby, on 027 814 8865 if their child is not travelling on the bus or will not be at kura.

The current bus timetable is below. This is subject to change and you will be kept up to date of these changes.

Our bus service collects tamariki from Ngaroma (corner of Mangawhio and Ngaroma Roads), Pukewhau Road, Huirimu Road, Mangare Road, Waipapa Road, Kahorekau Road.

EASTERN ZONE SCHOOLS

Our kura is part of the Eastern Zone cluster of rural schools, which come together for a range of shared events. This provides opportunities for our tamariki to participate in sport with a wider group of schools, supporting whanaungatanga and connection beyond our own kura. It also encourages healthy competition (whakataetae) and helps ākonga develop teamwork, skills, and manaakitanga through sport and shared experiences.

Sports programme:
Term 1: Swimming Sports – hosted by Pukeatua School
Term 2: Cross Country – hosted by Arohena School
Term 3: Winter Sports tournament - hosted by Wharepapa South School
Term 4: Touch rugby – hosted by Waipa Christian School
Term 4: Athletics – hosted by Puahue School

We also collaborate with Pukeatua School and Wharepapa South School for our Year 7/8 Technology programme.

STOCK SCHEME

At Arohena School, our stock scheme is a valued community initiative and an important way we work together to support our ākonga. The funds raised help provide enriching learning resources and opportunities for all our tamariki.

How it works:
We warmly invite our farming families and wider community to donate a weaned beef calf. These calves are then cared for and relocated by our Stock Scheme Coordinator to be grazed through to maturity.

This scheme is a wonderful example of the generosity and connection within our community.

If you would like to be involved or learn more, please contact our coordinator, Cameron Te Brake on 027 344 2213.

Thank you for being part of what makes Arohena School such a special place.