

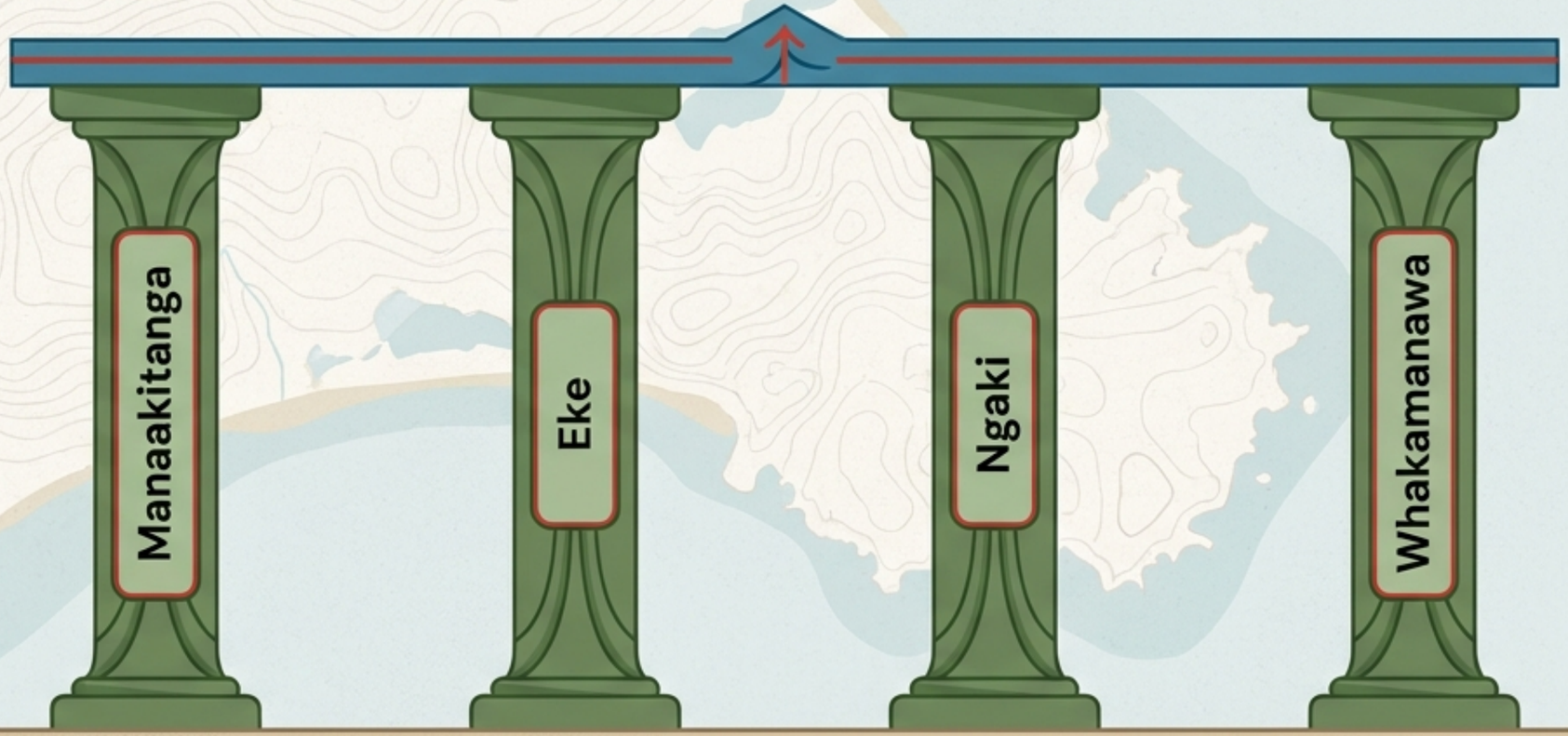
Okains Bay School

Okains Bay School Strategic Plan: 2026–2029

Refreshing our vision, delivering for our ākonga.

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Our Bedrock: Vision and Values



Vision: We aim to create an inclusive, dynamic, community-focused school where every voice is heard and valued, and **empowered to contribute to positive change.**

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2026: A Year of Transition and Action

~~Rewriting~~

Refreshing & Delivering



The Ministry Mandate & Our Approach

The Ministry of Education has designated 2026 as a transition year. We are not required to completely rewrite our strategic plan. Instead, we are refreshing our current plan with a strict focus on annual delivery and reporting.

Key Government Priorities Integrated

- Student achievement
- Attendance
- Using assessment data to allocate resources
- Cultural responsiveness

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The Three Pillars of Our Strategy



Pillar 1: Local Environment

The local environment is used to deliver the school curriculum for all students.

Pillar 2: Community Heart

The School is the heart of the community.

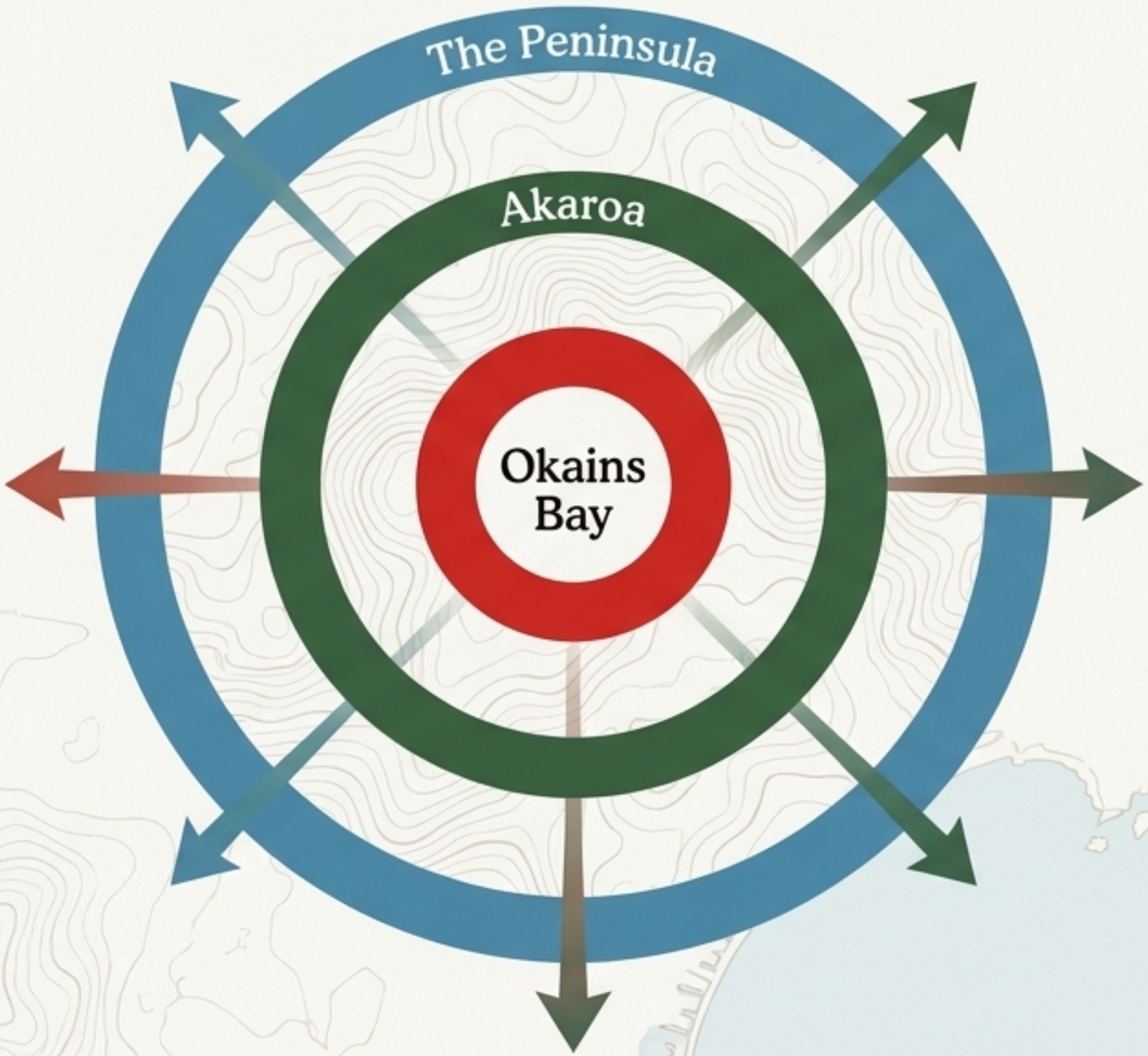
Pillar 3: Student Wellbeing

Student wellbeing is a priority for the School.

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Goal 1: Using the Environment to Deliver the Curriculum

The Curriculum Ripple



The 3-Year Cycle

Our curriculum is deliberately reshaped around a three-year cycle that scales outward: from Okains Bay, to Akaroa, to the wider Peninsula, seamlessly incorporating science and social studies.

Global Issues, Local Lens

Students examine large-scale issues like regenerative farming and waste projects through direct observation in their backyard.

Kaitiakitanga

Deeply embracing the concept of ‘respect for the planet’ through active, hands-on learning.

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Growing Goal 1: Roots & Shoots

Foundation vs. Focus 2026

Strong Roots (What we have built)

- Implementing structured literacy and Pr1me maths successfully.
- Daily curriculum delivery via the beach and stream (including ‘litter intelligence’ and ecology surveys).
- Hosting rich local expert visits (e.g., geologist Sam Hampton, Lincoln Uni students, Pest Free Peninsula).

2026 Shoots (What we are building next)

- **Local Projects:** Launching a riverside cleanup and constructing a new riverside walking track.
- **Enviro Schools:** Further developing the school greenhouse.
- Smart Assessment: Navigating the new government digital SMART tool (Years 3-10) while fiercely monitoring and retaining our local assessment texture to avoid becoming just another ‘league table’.

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Goal 2: The School as the Heart of the Community



The Concept

In a small community, the school plays an outsized role. We aim to be a reliable source of information, a consistent venue for connection, and an active partner in the social fabric of the Bay.

Visibility & Growth

Facilitating local events, supporting housing/transport options for roll growth, and celebrating our positive profile in local media.

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Growing Goal 2: Roots & Shoots

Foundation vs. Focus 2026

Strong Roots (What we have built)

- Deep collaboration with the Okains Bay Museum (facilitated by visitor host liaison).
- Consistent, well-attended community events, including termly dinners/quizzes and the annual family beach camp.
- Careful observation and support of local social and family networks.

2026 Shoots (What we are building next)

- **Facilities:** Securing CCC funding for a fixed gas-fired BBQ and a fixed basketball hoop for after-hours community use.
- **Welcoming Spaces:** Installing new signage encouraging community use ('You are welcome - we ask that you leave no trace').
- **Cultural Commitment:** Prioritising Te Tiriti o Waitangi despite shifting government policies, and expanding connections to Wairewa and Ōnuku.
- **Advocacy:** Lobbying the CCC to resolve the local Okains Bay water issue.

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Goal 3: Prioritizing Student Wellbeing



The Concept

Creating an environment where ākonga are physically and emotionally safe, allowing them to learn self-management and how to positively influence their environment.

The Outcome

Students who interact confidently with others, both within the Bay and when navigating activities in the wider world.

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Growing Goal 3: Roots & Shoots

Strong Roots (What we have built)

- Explicit daily teaching of wellbeing skills (listening, friendship, empathy).
- High attendance driven by positive morning staff greetings and the provision of local lunches.
- Responsible technology filtering and a deep staff understanding of student emotions and moods.
- Fostering a proud, confident identity tied to our smaller community school.

2026 Shoots (What we are building next)

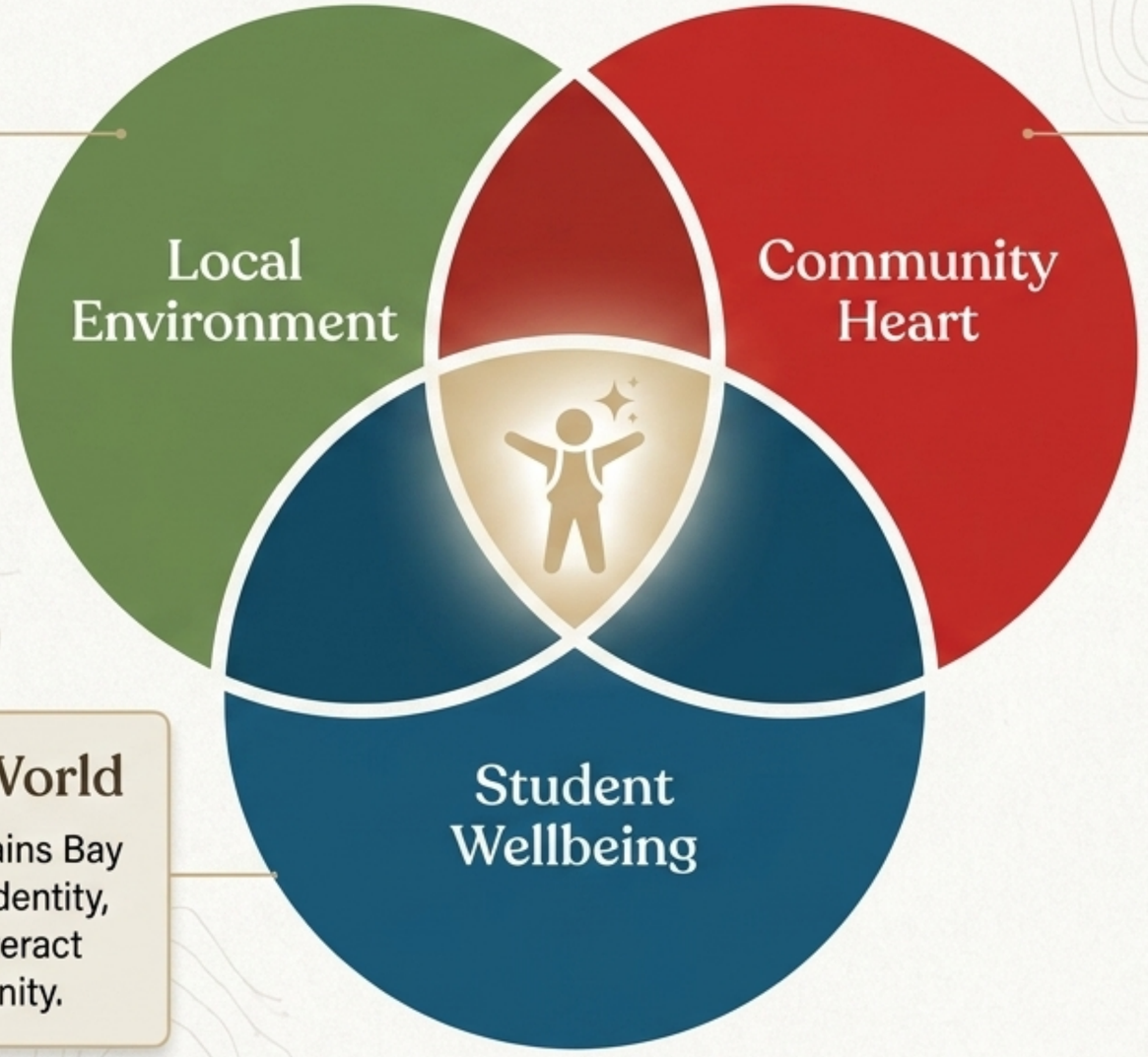
- Teaching Resilience: Explicit focus on equipping students with the skills to cope with ‘everyday mishaps’ and bounce back.
- Digital Navigation: Providing a safe environment for students to explore and understand a rapidly changing world, specifically AI.
- Economic Monitoring: Actively tracking the practical impact of increased fuel prices on our students’ ability to access Peninsula activities.

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Synthesis: The Centered Ākonga

The Overlap

Our strategic plan is not three separate checklists. It is an ecosystem.



The Result

When we use our rich local environment as a classroom, surround our school with an active and supportive community, and explicitly teach wellbeing and resilience—we create confident ākonga.

Ready for the World

Our students leave Okains Bay deeply rooted in their identity, yet fully prepared to interact with the global community.

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Moving Forward Together in 2026



Building the Future

Delivering this refreshed plan requires the whole village.

The Improvement Roster

We are establishing a new community 'improvement roster' to facilitate working bees and school projects.

Upcoming Focus Areas:

- Riverside track construction
- BBQ and basketball hoop installation
- Enviro Schools greenhouse support

How will you contribute to our 2026 Shoots?

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