



## Te Ao Māori at Northland School (Te Kuru o te Orangi Kaupapa)

**Whakatauki:** Whāia te mātauranga hei oranga mō koutou. (Seek after learning for the sake of your wellbeing) (Māori Proverbs – Whakataukī, 1999-2025)

### Te Ao Māori Statement

Te Ao Māori represents the holistic Māori worldview, emphasising the profound interconnectedness of people, nature, and ancestors. This perspective is inherently woven into tikanga (customary practices), whakawhanaungatanga (how we relate to each other), kawa and mātauranga (knowledge).

Te Kuru o te Orangi Kaupapa formally recognises Māori as tangata whenua (people of the land) and Te Ātiawa as mana whenua (local people/hosts). We actively embrace and incorporate Te Ao Māori through planned learning activities within the New Zealand Curriculum, our school's Annual Plan and various community initiatives.

## Embracing Te Ao Māori at Northland School

### Ako

At Northland School, we are committed to honoring and recognising Te Ao Māori (the Māori worldview). We integrate te reo Māori and tikanga (customs) into daily classroom lessons. Our staff receives weekly te reo Māori (language) lessons and learns pūrākau (stories) linked to mana whenua, Te Ātiawa. These pūrākau and language skills are then taught to the students. We incorporate karakia (blessing and thankfulness) into our daily routines. Our Rōpū Whanaungatanga (vertical groups from across the school) use a Tuakana/ Teina approach, to foster strong learning relationships between students and staff.

## Kapa Haka

Kapa Haka (Māori performing arts) is open to all students and plays a significant role in fostering a love for the Māori language and cultural values. Through Kapa Haka, our students develop a strong sense of belonging and mana (prestige, spiritual power), which contributes to their positive well-being. Our dedicated Kapa Haka group, led by Matua Hemi Prime, provides students with the opportunity to gain confidence and express themselves through performance. They regularly rehearse and perform at school assemblies, mihi whakataū, festivals, and other special events.

## Mihi Whakataū

Every term, we hold a mihi whakataū (formal welcome ceremony) to welcome new students, families, and staff. This special occasion allows us to welcome newcomers with traditional ceremonies, including haka, waiata, whaikōrero, hongi (traditional Māori greeting), and shared kai (food) which allows the tapu to be lifted. We warmly invite all members of our community to attend and share in this experience.

## Whānau

We undertake a number of hui to engage all Whānau of Te Kuru o te Orangi Kaupapa. These hui include Māori and Pacific Fono, workshops on Ako (learning), Whakawhanaungatanga (relationships and connection), Korero ako (learning conversations) and provide opportunities for being active planners for community activities like Mātariki. We acknowledge the critical nature of robust relationships with our Whānau.

## Strategic Actions

### Governance

Our Board of Trustees reviews our cultural impact using frameworks e.g. the Hautu Tool. The Senior Leadership Team also provides regular cultural information based upon Whānau hui, reports on cultural activities (Kapa Haka, pūrākau), and the achievement of Māori and Pacific learners to base our strategic actions upon. These actions are contained with the Annual Plan and are regularly reviewed.

### Te Atiawa

We have developed a strong relationship with Te Atiawa and this is reflected in our agreed annual work programme. This programme includes pūrākau, Kura Ahurea Toa hui, Kura Ahurea Tumuaki hui, Whakanui Ahurea, Ki-o-rahi and Annual Board hui.

### References

*Māori proverbs – Whakataukī. (1999-2025). Massey University. Retrieved November 12, 2025, from <https://www.massey.ac.nz/student-life/m%C4%81ori-at-massey/te-reo-m%C4%81ori-and-tikanga-resources/te-reo-m%C4%81ori-pronunciation-and-translations/whakatauk%C4%AB-m%C4%81ori-proverbs>*