

# WHĀNAU AWAHOU O TE URU KARAKA TE ĀHUA O Ā TĀTOU ĀKONGA: CONTEXT

*A river has the capacity to carry and to nourish.*

*It has the strength to carve mountains and canyons. The power to change the world.*

*Rivers are born in the tallest peaks.*

*A river carries the knowledge of all it has touched and all who have touched it on its journey.*

*A river is responsive and resilient.*

*Rivers do not balk at obstacles but find ways to course around and over them, often carving new channels to do so.*

*As it joins the ocean, a river's waters mingle with those of rivers and streams from every corner of the earth.*

*Rivers are the repositories and protectors of treasure.*

*Ko Mātou te Awa*

*Te Whānau Awahou*

**Te Whānau Awahou o te Uru Karaka is a place of Āhuru Mōwai.**

Our tamariki are at the centre of everything we do.

Whānau Awahou believe that in order to reach their full potential, our tamariki need a learning environment which embodies the fundamental principles of Āhuru Mōwai.

*Āhuru Mōwai refers to a warm and sheltered haven. It describes the womb, te whare tangata. Āhuru Mōwai carries a sense of protection, nurturing, growth and fostered enlightenment.*

**Te reo Māori me ona tikanga me ahuatanga Māori underpins the learning journey of our tamariki.**

## WHANONGA PONO

**We nurture tamariki and whanau by embracing and fostering te reo, tikanga and wairua**

Our key values are:      Aroha   Whānaungatanga   Manākitanga   Maturanga   Whakapapa   Pono   Tika   Tiakitanga  
   Kotahitanga   Whakamana   Rangatiratanga

We want our tamariki to stand tall in the world, proud in the knowledge of who they are as individuals, as well as members of iwi, hapu and whanau.

We want our tamariki to have the skills and knowledge not just to succeed in te ao Māori (Māori world-view), te ao Pākehā (Pākehā world-view), te ao whānui (global world-view) but to be active and deliberate contributors to all.

**That our tamariki will be carriers of culture is our honour and our privilege.**

## VISION

Our vision is for the Awahou model to be a world leader in language and culture revitalisation – an aspiration which is achieved through the success, health and mana tangata of its tamariki.

# MISSION

Our mission is to actively support our tamariki in becoming bilingual, biliterate and bicultural. We advocate on their behalf and collaborate with kaiako and the kura to ensure the learning pathway is capable of meeting their diverse needs and producing successful academic and social outcomes. We do this so that every child's mana tangata is realised.

# SUCCESS

**We define success for our tamariki according to the four dimensions of Te Whare Tapa Whā - Hauora Māori.**

## **Taha Tinana**

Physical well-being. Physical health is a prerequisite for optimal development. Our physical 'being' supports our essence and shelters us from the external environment. For Māori the physical dimension is just one aspect of health and well-being and cannot be separated from the aspect of mind, spirit and family.

## **Taha Wairua**

Spiritual well-being. The capacity for faith and wider communication. The spiritual essence of a person is their life force. This determines us as individuals and as a collective, who and what we are, where we have come from and where we are going.

## **Taha Hinengaro**

Mental and emotional well-being. The capacity to communicate, to think and to feel. Thoughts, feelings and emotions are integral components of the body and soul. This is about how we see ourselves in this universe, our interaction with that which is uniquely Māori and the perception that others have of us.

## **Taha Whānau**

Familial well-being. The capacity to belong, to care and to share where individuals are part of wider social systems. The sense of belonging, sharing and caring. Whānau provides us with the strength to be who we are. This is the link to our ancestors, our ties with the past, the present and the future.

**We want our tamariki to be healthy and successful. We view the two concepts as fundamentally connected.**

# LEARNING PATHWAY

Awahou is a considered response to a clear need for access to (and a universal strengthening of) reo, tikanga and mātauranga Māori.

We welcome entry of tamariki of all backgrounds and levels of reo Māori because of the benefit we see for our community in the long-term. We are also purposeful about our role in providing particular benefit for Māori whānau in redressing their disconnect with legacy knowledge.

Awahou is not a stepping stone to a different pathway but a full and rich learning environment and experience in its own right.

## **Te Reo**

Awahou is an immersion unit. Our instructional language is reo Māori.

Awahou is focussed in its pursuit of language acquisition. It is therefore open to language models in which reo Ingarihi is used deliberately to support reo Māori development. Our expectation is that the most effective model will be applied. Our current understanding is that a simultaneous acquisition model is optimum.

We want our tamariki to have access to opportunities for growth and knowledge. If such opportunities happen to be available in a reo other than Māori, that is not considered an automatic obstacle to our tamariki being exposed to the learning. The graduate profile and values of Awahou apply. In the past for instance, tamariki have talked with members of the British space programme. However, reo Ingarihi must be used purposefully to further the acquisition of reo Māori or provide access to a specific and unique learning opportunity.

# TE ĀHUA O Ā TĀTOU ĀKONGA

*Ka whangaia, ka tupu, ka puawai*

That which is nurtured grows, then blossoms

Our graduate profile communicates a shared understanding of what a future-oriented Awahou learner looks like. It describes the attributes, abilities and attitudes an Awahou student will have on graduation. The profile captures the things whānau, kaiako and tamariki believe our tamariki need in order to realise their potential and actively participate in a range of life contexts beyond kura.

We want our tamariki to stand tall in the world, proud in the knowledge of who they are as individuals, as well as members of iwi, hapū and whānau. We want our tamariki to have the skills and knowledge not just to succeed in te ao Māori, te ao Pākehā, te ao whānui but to be active and deliberate contributors in those worlds.

We celebrate and value diversity. The graduate profile is intended to be inclusive and supportive of the individualised expression of achievement as shaped by the tamaiti themselves. Each part of the profile should be read with this in mind.

*E kuikui te tui, e ketekete te kaka, e kuku te kereru*

## TE PITO MATA - The Potential

*Iti noa ana, he pito mata.* Although it is just small, it is uncooked. (From the uncooked portion, many kumara may grow)

Ākongā are supported to realise their individual potential. Awahou graduates are:

- Confident
- Healthy
- Successful

Whānau Awahou believe that in order to reach their full potential, our tamariki need a learning environment which embodies the fundamental principles of Āhuru Mōwai.

Āhuru Mōwai refers to a warm and sheltered haven. It describes the womb, te whare tangata. Āhuru Mōwai carries a sense of protection, nurturing, growth and fostered enlightenment. It is responsive to the individual challenges tamaiti have on their journey to reaching their own potential.

## TE WHAKATINANA - The Realisation

*Ko te ahurei o te tamaiti arahia o tatou mahi.* Let the uniqueness of the child guide our work.

## WHAT DO CONFIDENT AWAHOU GRADUATES LOOK LIKE?

Confidence arises from a strong sense of self-worth, anchored identity and a valuing of culture and language.

**Communication:** Graduates can -

- Communicate effectively in a variety of te ao Māori as well as te ao Pakeha contexts and situations (formal and informal)

**Culture:** Graduates -

- Understand the values of their whānau, hapū and iwi, and how these provide access to the Māori world and beyond
- Know how to behave appropriately in te ao Māori contexts
- Know and celebrate their identity and origins, genealogy and whakapapa links
- Understand differences between te ao Māori and te ao Pakeha and can actively participate in and contribute positively to both
- Are active users of reo Māori and advocates for Māori language and culture
- Are respectful of the mana of others and their attitudes and values, even if these differ from their own
- Are able to conduct themselves respectfully and with dignity in other cultural settings including those of their wider whānau and community

## WHAT DO HEALTHY AWAHOU GRADUATES LOOK LIKE?

Success for ākonga is founded on their well-being. Well-being / health is defined according to the dimensions of taha tinana, taha hinengaro, taha wairua and taha whānau.

### **Hauora:** Graduates -

- Understand the four dimensions of well-being and have tools to promote and maintain their own good health

### **Taha Tinana:** Graduates -

- Participate in kapahaka and hākinakina as ways to promote their own well-being
- Know the role kai plays in their well-being, are involved in its production and are capable of making good decisions as consumers

### **Taha Hinengaro:** Graduates -

- Are capable of drawing on mātauranga Māori to settle/strengthen their own mental and emotional well-being
- Understand the importance of being able to articulate how they are feeling and are confident to do so

### **Taha Wairua:** Graduates -

- Understand what wairua and mauri are and the role they play in their own well-being, that of others as well as the natural world
- Understand social justice, activism and their own role in making the world a better place
- Actively contribute to and have the confidence to provide leadership around the care of Papatūānuku and Ranginui

### **Taha Whānau:** Graduates -

- Participate effectively and positively in their community, the Māori community, their own diverse cultures and the global world
- Take responsibility for treating others with respect and aroha

## WHAT DO SUCCESSFUL AWAHOU GRADUATES LOOK LIKE?

Success spans multiple dimensions and worlds. Success is viewed from both te ao Māori and te ao Pakeha perspectives.

### **Attitudes and Attributes:** Graduates -

- Enjoy learning
- Know what interests them (self-aware)
- Have a strong work ethic
- Are inventive, curious and use their initiative
- Are confident in their own abilities and the value of those abilities in whatever area they arise (eg literacy, numeracy, arts, sports, serving the community, making others smile, caring for the māra etc)

### **Abilities:** Graduates -

- Achieve success in multiple areas (eg academic, social, cultural)
- Participate effectively and positively in their community, the Māori community, their own diverse cultures and the global world
- Are confident and motivated to pursue their own lifelong learning journeys
- Are able to express themselves using a wide-range of communication tools