



Te Ara Koropiko West Spreydon School Board statement on Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Since 2020, the Education and Training Act has required school boards to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. In practice, this meant ensuring that school plans, policies, and local curricula reflected local tikanga, mātauranga and te ao Māori. It also required boards to take all reasonable steps to make instruction in tikanga Māori and te reo Māori available, and to work actively toward equitable outcomes for Māori students.

On 18 November 2025, the Education and Training Amendment Act 2025 was passed into law, removing this requirement. This change was made without wider consultation and reflects a concerning trend toward diminishing the visibility and value of Māori language and culture in Aotearoa New Zealand schools. It signals a troubling shift in educational policy that risks eroding the presence of te ao Māori within our education system.

As a board, we want to reassure our school community that this legislative change does not alter our commitment to the success and wellbeing of all our ākonga, including tamariki Māori. Research clearly shows that all children thrive when their language, culture, and identity are recognised, affirmed and woven into their learning. Our decisions as a board are guided by evidence, professional integrity and our responsibility to help grow the next generation of thoughtful, knowledgeable and compassionate citizens.

At Te Ara Koropiko West Spreydon School, we will continue to ensure that our ākonga develop a deep understanding of the place they call home. This will remain visible in the content we teach, the language we use, the partnerships we nurture and the strategy that shapes our direction as a school. The pride we see on the faces of our students when they confidently perform our school haka before hundreds of whānau and community members strengthens our resolve to uphold the kaupapa that is foundational to our identity as a school.

We are united in our commitment to continue enacting the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi within our school community and curriculum, growing a generation of young people who honour where they come from, embrace diversity and understand the importance of belonging, respect and collective responsibility.

Puritia ngā taonga a ngā tūpuna mō ngā puāwai o te ora, ā mātou tamariki.
Hold fast to the cultural treasures of our ancestors for the future benefit of our children.

