

Kilbirnie School Whanau Group.



Background

The Ministry of Education requires every New Zealand School to implement Ka Hikitia - Accelerating Success 2013-2017: The Māori Education Strategy. This Strategy was established "to make a significant difference for Māori students in education" and was underpinned by research showing that Māori students do much better when education reflects and values their identity, language and culture.

In 2014 the Board of Trustees undertook a comprehensive review of the schools Bicultural Policy. This process involved the review of the Ka Hikitia document to find a fit that worked with the Kilbirnie School community.

The revised policy and its associated procedures acknowledge the unique position of Māori as tangata whenua of Aotearoa, New Zealand. The documents also express Kilbirnie School's commitment to working with all students to develop a greater appreciation of Te Reo me nga tikanga as preparation to participate and contribute within New Zealand society. In 2015 the Kilbirnie School Graduate Profile was developed stating that our students would be: "Respectful of others and aware of tikanga Maori".

The development of the Bicultural Policy involved a group parents and whanau of the school. Several meetings were held to discuss the intention of the policy to recognise and celebrate te ao Maori, and some members helped to draft sections of the policy and procedures. This group became know as the Kilbirnie School Whanau group and has continued to work in support of the intent of the Bicultural Policy.

The kaupapa (purpose) of the whanau group is to:

To support the school to ensure that the three elements of the Bicultural Policy (Treaty of Waitangi; Identity, Language and Culture; and Ako) are reflected authentically in the delivery of the school's curriculum, teaching practice and school management practice.

This may involve:

- Supporting lead teachers in specific activities, ie Kapa haka
- Encouraging more whanau to get involved in bicultural practice within the school
- Introducing and fostering relationships between the school and local Maori in the wider school community
- Attending hui to discuss activities if and when needed