



Mā te huruhuru, ka rere te manu  
Adorn the bird with feathers and it will fly

## **Arowhenua Māori School Attendance Plan**

## **Whakamārama**

The kīra is the type of wing feather that enables a bird to fly.

This anagram is used to remind us of the four basic essentials our tāmariki/mokopuna need to have in order to be kura ready, specifically in relation to attendance.

It is based on the English anagram;

**HERO: Here/Everyday/Ready/On-time.**

The whakataukī reminds us that as long as our tāmariki/mokopuna have each component firmly in-place, they are being supported to succeed and to fly.

## KEI KONEI (HERE)

At Arowhenua Māori School, we acknowledge the importance of good attendance. This is reflected through our uāra ā-kura (school values):

### WHĀNAUKATAKA

- Through the levels of diversity that kura can provide, our tamariki/mokopuna **connect** first-hand with looking at their world from different perspectives and provides an opportunity to respond directly in real time. This can provide opportunities for them to develop **empathy** and **curiosity**.
- In a world of constant change and uncertainty, kura (just like marae, church, or home) is one place that can provide consistency and develop a **sense of belonging**. Where our tamaiti/mokopuna sometimes don't find this consistency for a number of reasons in other places in their lives, kura can.

### RAKATIRATAKA

- While some think that kura is only a place that provides the learning of literacy and numeracy skills, kura is also a place that can provide so much more. Through regular interaction our tamaiti/mokopuna learn **emotional regulation, social skills, creative thinking, critical awareness, cause and effect, conflict resolution, resilience, goal orientated success**, and much more. We can call these skills *the hidden curriculum*. It is actually these skills that the future thinking markets and organisations world-wide agree create the most successful people and are important skills for future careers and personal success.

### KAITIAKITAKA

- For our tamariki/mokopuna to achieve well and develop a positive kura experience, you as whānau have a level of **responsibility** and play an important role. It is a well-known fact that the more you are seen to **positively support** the kura and your tamaiti/mokopuna with their learning, the more successfully they will engage at kura, which in turn sets them up to achieve.

## MANAAKITAKA

- What makes our kura special is the **relationships** we have with each other. Legislation has been set around attendance requirements, and while honouring these, we will also attempt to **support** whānau where we can.

## I A RĀ (EVERYDAY)

If a child misses	that equals...	which is...	and over 13 years of school that's...	
1 day per fortnight (90% attendance)	19 days per year	≈ 4 weeks per year	Nearly 1½ years	Regular Attendance
1 day per week (80% attendance)	38 days per year	≈ 8 weeks per year	Over 2½ years	Irregular Absence
2 days per week (60% attendance)	76 days per year	≈ 16 weeks per year	Over 5 years	Chronic Absence
3 days per week (40% attendance)	114 days per year	≈ 24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years	

Do you know that if a tamaiti misses more than 20 days of a school term without an accepted reason, the school is required to unenroll them.

### Frequently asked pātai:

#### What is regular attendance in Aotearoa?

Regular attendance is defined as attending greater than 90 per cent of class time or missing no more than one day each fortnight.

#### How many days can a child miss school in Aotearoa?

A parent or guardian needs to contact the school and explain why you won't be at school. If you have a legitimate reason, your principal can allow you to be away for up to five school days at a time, otherwise the kura may need to unenroll your tamaiti/mokopuna.

#### What are the truancy laws in Aotearoa?

It is whānau responsibility to get your tamaiti/mokopuna to kura. you could be charged and fined. We will support where we can and if necessary, work with outside support agencies such as, Te Tūhana, Arowhenua Whānau Services, RockOn, and Oranga- Tamariki.

## What are justified reasons for school absence?

While we appreciate there are genuine reasons why an absence is justified, it still means that the student is not in class. Some acceptable reasons for absence, as specified by the Ministry of Education, include genuine illness, medical or dental appointments, bereavement and cultural or sporting representation. It is really important that you maintain good relationships with the kura.

## What happens if you don't go to school in Aotearoa?

Attending school is compulsory by law.

Children are legally required to be enrolled at and regularly attend school between the ages of six and sixteen. If this doesn't happen then parents, caregivers, whānau, whoever is ultimately responsible for that child can be prosecuted.

**Once your child has started school they need to attend every day. School used to be compulsory from age six, but the law changed in July 2017, and now children need to attend every day from when they first start school.**

## Can you take kids out of school for holiday?

Can I take my child out of school during term time to go on holiday? No, a holiday is not a good enough reason to take your child out of school, so holidays should be planned outside of term time. Events like a birthday or a special day's shopping or haircuts aren't considered valid reasons for being away from school also.

## What we are required to do:

- **Regular Attendance (Good)**  
(more than 90% of the time, or 15 days absent a year). This is where we should ALL be aiming.
- **Irregular Attendance (Worrying)**  
(between 80-90% or 5-9 days per term). This is where we begin to get concerned, and will be reaching out to see what can be done to support your tamaiti/mokopuna get back to kura.
- **Moderately absent (Concerning)**  
(70% - 80%, or 10-14 days per term). This is where we will be contacting you (either in-person, by letter and/or at an interview) and discussing ways and if needed, support to improve your tamaiti/mokopuna getting to kura.
- **Chronically absent (Serious concern)**  
(less than 70% of the time, 15 days or more per term). If your tamaiti/mokopuna is chronically absent, you will receive a formal letter and other agencies will be notified.

Coming to kura every day possible creates good habits and expectations. These are habits that will set your tamaiti/mokopuna up for future success.

At kura we attempt to create learning that is experiential and relational. Learning that connects our tamariki to Te Ao Māori. If a tamaiti misses out on important experiences it can set them apart and makes it hard for them to catch up or to relate in authentic ways.

## RERI (READY)

It is also important that their basic needs are met at home. This means they are ready to learn.

- They need to have had breakfast, remember if for any reason this does not happen, we are able to provide breakfast here at kura.
- They need a **healthy** snack (morning tea). Please refrain from sending them to kura with sugar-filled kai, apart from long-term negative effects, (South Canterbury statistics show that tāmariki Māori have the highest levels of tooth decay in the country!) it also affects their ability to concentrate throughout the day.

Through the Ka Ora-Ka Ako lunch programme, we are able to supply every tamaiti with a healthy and nutritional lunch every day.

- **SLEEP.** This is one of the most important needs for our tāmariki/mokopuna. When our tāmariki are tired they lose their ability to concentrate, and they can make bad decisions. It can also affect their immune systems. While we understand that situations can happen, they should be rare. Set healthy routines, getting them to bed at an acceptable time, device-free.
- If they are unwell, they stay home. This may sound like a contradiction, but we find if your tamaiti/mokopuna isn't over an illness, then they often get sick again once they get back. They can also increase the risk of infection to others. This will be classified as "justified absence". If they are absent for more than 4 days, a medical certificate may be requested. Please stay in contact with the kura and an off-site learning package can be provided.



WHAT SORT OF START IS YOUR CHILD GETTING?			
Just a little bit late doesn't seem much, but...			
He/She is only missing just...	That equals...	Which is...	Over 13 years of schooling that's...
10 minutes/day	50 minutes/week	Nearly 1.5 weeks/year	Nearly <u>half a year</u>
20 minutes/day	1 hours 40 minutes/week	Over 2.5 weeks/year	Nearly <u>1 year</u>
Half an hour/day	Half a day/week	4 weeks/year	Nearly <u>1 and a half years</u>
1 hour per day	1 day/week	8 weeks/year	Over <u>2 and a half years</u>

Part of creating good habits is getting your tamaiti/mokopuna to kura on-time.

The beginning of the day is a special time for us at kura. Starting with karakia, pānui, mihi and birthday greetings, it sets up the tone for the rest of the day.

If your tamaiti/mokopuna arrives late it is a requirement that we record this on their attendance record.

We acknowledge that sometimes things go wrong in our whānau and your tamaiti/mokopuna might come to kura upset or stressed. For this reason it is best they come to kura on-time (between 8.30-9.00am) as this can give us the opportunity to help settle them before the start of the day.





## My self-reflection...somethings I can do

Please take time to read through the following insights and reflective questions.

How are we managing healthy sleep routines and getting ready for kura?

Make a plan

Remember...

Lack of sleep for tamariki can cause impulsivity, stress, depression, anxiety, aggressive behavior, and thinking problems. Tamariki with insufficient sleep also have impaired cognitive functions such as decision making, conflict solving, working memory, and learning.

Be consistent. Get them to bed at the same time each night and get up at the same time each morning, including on the weekends.

Make sure their bedroom is quiet, dark, relaxing, and at a comfortable temperature.

Remove electronic devices, such as TVs, computers, and smart phones, from the bedroom.

Also, avoid using your child's bedroom for time out or other punishment.

Have morning tea snacks, breakfast and clean uniforms ready the night before.

Am I taking an active interest in my tamaiti/mokopuna 's learning?

The more positive and interested we are in their learning, the more engaged our tamariki become. If you have any questions or concerns, it is best to come and talk to someone at kura as any worries or concerns can impact on your tamaiti/mokopuna 's attitude about kura and their kaiako.

How often do I ask about their learning? What they like best? What they might need support with?

How do I promote and support the kura outside school hours?

Do I attend whānau hui and kura events?

Have I kept the kura up-to-date with my contact details?

As we are a bilingual kura, it is an expectation that you either speak/promote te reo Māori to your tamaiti/mokopuna or are actively learning it. There are a number of free on-line courses available and we as a kura from time to time offer different ways of learning.

Something to ponder... We may not have had a positive school experience ourselves. What we need to remember is how easy it can be to let this cloud our judgement of kura now. We are here because we are passionate about supporting your tamaiti/mokopuna to succeed and to stand strong knowing who they are. Please reach out with any concerns or if you need support. We are here to help.