



**Te Ao Mārama**  
SCHOOL

**PROSPECTUS**

**E NGĀ IWI O TE AO KATOA... HAERE MAI, HAERE MAI, HAERE MAI**  
To the peoples of the whole world... welcome, welcome, welcome



# From the Principal

Hello, Kia ora, talofa, namaste, kia orana, taloha ni, fakalofa lahi atu, malo e lelei, bula, ni hao, anyoung haseyo, konichi wa, kalous enthata, bonjour... **Welcome to Te Ao Mārama School!**

My name is Tony Grey and I am delighted to welcome you to Te Ao Mārama School. I am both honoured and excited to be the Foundation Principal. The opportunity to establish a new school is a career dream, and I am passionate about developing a culture of learning and innovation for our school.

I have been involved in education for over 20 years, with the last 15 years as Principal. I was born and bred in Gisborne, before moving to Hamilton to attend the University of Waikato. My wife is also a teacher and we have two daughters that attend Rototuna High School and one at University.

As a parent, I fully appreciate the importance of the school experience in shaping the lives of our children, and the vital role that school plays in your child's academic, physical, social, and emotional development.

Our vision is to **inspire, challenge and empower our learners to create tomorrow today**. We want to engage our learners, spark their passions, and provide exciting opportunities. We want them to learn from their mistakes, try new things and give it a go. We want them to have a strong sense of identity, set goals, and develop confidence. Our role is to help every student reach their potential and to develop a love of learning that goes far beyond what happens in the classroom.

Our school is forward thinking in our approach to teaching and learning, astute in appointing exceptionally talented staff, and purposeful in how we use our amazing state of the art facilities. We look forward to you joining us on this journey as we grow a new school for the community.

This is certainly an exciting time for all involved in our magnificent new school. If you would like any further information please do not hesitate to contact me, or alternatively I would be very happy to show you around our fantastic school.



Tony Grey  
Principal, Te Ao Mārama School





## Our Name

'Te Ao Mārama' is a Māori concept relating to wisdom and understanding, and the natural world of life and light.

It derives from the Māori legend in which Tāne (Māori god of forest and birds) separated his Sky Father Ranginui and Earth Mother Papatūānuku to create a world of light and life. This world was known as 'te ao mārama'.

The rich cultural heritage of the area and the relationship with iwi are key aspects of the environment and identity of our school.

The designated site for the school was formerly natural wetlands, abundant with a rich source of resources for sustaining the local hapū of Ngāti Wairere.

Te Ao Mārama honours the past, is representative of present aspirations and innovations, and provides inspiration for a promising future.

**The name was gifted to us by Dr. Ngāpare Hopa ("Whaea Pare"), a Ngāti Wairere (local iwi) elder.**

Dr. Hopa wanted a name that brings people together and links Māori, European and our many other cultures, respects the past, while also focusing on the present and future. She wanted a name that would be "all encompassing". The school name is a real taonga (gift) and considered prestigious.

The name Te Ao Mārama connects us strongly to the school's vision and values, and links us to the original wetland and the various native fauna/flora that inhabited the site. These are also used in our school's imagery, cultural artwork, landscaping design and building names.



## Our Logo

The graphic logo has been carefully designed to symbolise many positive concepts.

The trio of coloured elements are all interconnected with an abstract woven pattern wherein each aspect lends and draws support from the other pieces around it. It is an important concept of supported strength and collaboration that symbolises various relationships:

- between the land, water and people
- concepts of 'inspire, challenge, empower'
- Māori, NZ European, people of the world
- school, community, wider world
- parents, staff and students
- past, the present and the future

The interwoven graphic also forms a loose letter 'A' for 'Ao' - the light. Similar to the way in which mountains rise from the land with a natural upwards force, the graphic represents Tāne (God of the forests and birds) pushing upwards and separating his parents, Papatūānuku (the earth mother) and Ranginui (the sky father), thereby allowing light to come into the natural world.



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The coloured lines are representative of the learning journey path: each student is on the 'wave' of their learning. Looking closer, these individual strands symbolise individual learners, but the overall direction is that which is heading forward together cohesively.

A further abstract concept that can be drawn is that the lines also denote the flow of water from Te Awa o Waikato, which traditionally brings life, prosperity and connectedness to both the people and the land.

A simple, fresh and vibrant colour theme has been carefully chosen to represent the natural world. Each of the colours of the logo are symbolic: light blue for sky (Ranginui), dark blue for water (lifeforce), and green for earth (Papatūānuku).





# Whiria Te Tāngata

## Our Vision, Values, Culture and Beliefs

The purpose of this visual is to develop clarity and a shared understanding of **why our school exists, who we are, what we stand for, what is most important to us.**



### THE NGĀKAU (HEART)

Our culture sits right at the heart/ngākau of everything we do. The ngākau weaves together the concepts of Whanaungatanga and Ako.

### WHANAUNGATANGA

This concept is about developing a strong sense of relationships, connection, and sense of belonging. We recognise that relationships underpin all learning, and the importance of seeing the whole child.

~ The 3 most important things in our school are relationships, relationships, relationships

### AKO

The concept of ako means to both teach and to learn, and the strong relationship between the two.



## Our Vision

At Te Ao Mārama School, we will inspire, challenge and empower our learners to create tomorrow today.

**INSPIRE**  **CHALLENGE**  **EMPOWER**

## Our Values

These values are based on community feedback, board/leadership team ideas, and also on international research highlighting the key skills that are most valued in society and the workplace.

### WE WANT OUR LEARNERS (BOTH CHILDREN AND ADULTS) TO BE:

- Confident
- Creative
- Curious
- Collaborative
- Community-minded

*"Values are deeply held beliefs about what is important or desirable. They are expressed through the ways in which people think and act".*

*"Values are part of the everyday curriculum – encouraged, modelled, and explored."*

*– The New Zealand Curriculum,  
Ministry of Education*





# Learning at Te Ao Mārama

Learning experiences will be based within the New Zealand Curriculum, our school vision, values and principles. Reading, Writing and Maths will remain a priority but there will also be a focus on play based learning, student inquiry and the holistic development of all of our students.

## COMMUNICATING LEARNING

Communicating Learning (traditionally known as 'reporting') happens informally and formally throughout the school year - it is an ongoing process. The online programme we use is **Hero** which will be explained to you. We endeavour to use simple, honest language that communicates your child's progress and achievement to you. If you have queries regarding your child's learning and progress, your first point of contact should always be your child/ren's whānau teacher.

## HOME LEARNING

At Te Ao Mārama we do not set formal home learning. We encourage our students to be active outside school hours and our parents/ caregivers to assist their children by:

- Encouraging reading for pleasure and information
- Listening and talking to them about things of interest
- Providing them with opportunities to help at home
- Encouraging and supporting them in their interests

## OUR SCHOOL DAY

8:00am	Children welcome on site
8:20am	Families and students welcome in learning space communities
8:40am	Whānau Time (Learning Block 1)
8:55am	Learning Block 1 continues
10:40am	Morning Tea
11:10am	Learning Block 2
12:30pm	Lunch
1:15pm	Learning Block 3
2:15pm	Whānau Time
2:30pm	Finish

## EDUCATION OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM (EOTC)

EOTC experiences are an important aspect of our school curriculum. Such experiences allow for our learners to challenge their mindsets and to grow in confidence and self esteem. Our school has an EOTC policy and Risk Management Guidelines are followed by all staff when planning trips. All EOTC activities will be clearly communicated with you and at times we may require your assistance in terms of parent help and transport.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Roughly 25% of our students are English Language Learners and we have approximately 35 different countries represented within our school. We have a specialised team that work with students & we are proud to run rich support programmes as an extra boost for those learning English.

# Wellbeing

As part of our holistic approach to education your child will be placed into a **Whānau Group** each year where one key teacher will be your first point of contact about their learning and pastoral care.

Students will begin and end the school day with their whānau teacher. They will also spend time in their whānau groups in rich contexts that will focus on building key social and emotional skills such as resilience, growth mindset and how to build and maintain positive relationships.

## AFTERNOON WHĀNAU TIME

For the last 15 minutes of each school day your child will be with their whānau group

for Whānau Time. Whānau Time is about establishing positive relationships through shared experiences and working together, which provides people with a sense of belonging. Parents and whānau are warmly invited to attend these sessions to hear student reflections and sharing of learning. You are also very much encouraged to join your child's whānau group at this time for other related activities such as team building games.



# Behaviour for Learning

At Te Ao Mārama we aim to promote positive behaviour and to create an inclusive learning environment that will foster well-being and achievement for every child and student.

We utilise restorative approaches to improve behaviour and relationships by moving away from a blame and retribution model of dealing with negative behaviour, towards one which is based on a child's increasing knowledge of social responsibility and self awareness.

# Digital Technology

## DEVICES AT SCHOOL

We provide iPads and laptops as tools to enhance the learning at Te Ao Mārama School. Students in Kāhu team also have BYOD as an option (Bring Your Own Device).

## DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

We value our internet facilities and digital equipment and the benefits they bring us in learning outcomes and the effective operation of the school. We are also committed to keeping our learners safe online. All students will also be asked to read and discuss our eLearning Responsible User Agreement at home before signing and returning it to school. This document will also be discussed and explored at school as part of our digital citizenship programmes.

# Uniform

We have an **optional** school uniform that consists of a t-shirt and a hooded sweatshirt. Items can be tried on in the school office & ordered online through Kindo.

# Enrolment

Our school has an enrolment zone. If you live within this zone your children are entitled to attend Te Ao Mārama School, assuming you meet other requirements to attend a New Zealand state school. Refer to our school website for information about our zone. Once you have completed this process, we will contact you and arrange a time to come in and complete extra documentation required, talk about teaching and learning, the start date and have a tour of the school.

## NGĀ KĀKANO - TRANSITION TO SCHOOL

**New Entrants** - for children who are turning five (and therefore starting school for the first time) you will be contacted approximately 6-8 weeks prior to their starting date. Each child will have two Ngā Kākano (transition to school) visits, plus a school orientation tour with their family.



# Keeping Informed

Information about our school can be found on our website [teaomarama.school.nz](http://teaomarama.school.nz) or visit our Facebook page [facebook.com/Te-Ao-Mārama-School](https://facebook.com/Te-Ao-Mārama-School) for regular updates. Newsletters are also sent out to families electronically every few weeks.

## CONTACTING & COMMUNICATING WITH STAFF BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL

Between 8:20am-8:40am & 2:35pm-3:00pm staff are accessible in their learning areas to chat with you. If you would like to arrange a time to meet individually with your child's whānau teacher, please speak with them directly or email them to arrange a time. The standard format is:

**firstnames@teaomarama.school.nz**  
(eg. anna@teaomarama.school.nz).

## PARENTAL ASSISTANCE

Positive partnerships between home and school enhance student learning. When you enrol your child/ren please indicate on the form how you would like to contribute towards their learning. Involvement options include trips, camps or being involved in the learning communities sharing your skills and expertise.

## ONLINE PAYMENTS

All school costs (donations, sports fees, uniform, lunch orders etc) can be paid via our online Kindo shop. Either visit [mykindo.co.nz](http://mykindo.co.nz) or download the 'myKindo' app.

## HERO APP

Hero is an online sharing platform that we utilise for all our communication and reporting. You can also access important information such as term dates, school events, latest newsletters and even notify us of absentee days.



Either visit [go.linc-ed.com](http://go.linc-ed.com) or download the 'Hero by LINC-ED' app.

## OUT OF SCHOOL CARE

Journey Kids run a before and after school care programme at our school. Please visit their website for more information and to register.  
[www.journeykids.co.nz](http://www.journeykids.co.nz)



## Stationery

Our stationery requirement lists are loaded on to OfficeMax at [myschool.co.nz](http://myschool.co.nz). We've found this is the easiest way for you to purchase your child's stationery. All you will need to do is simply search for our school, select your child's learning community and follow the instructions on the website. Buying through OfficeMax MySchool also earns Rewards for our school which we can redeem for much needed educational supplies, equipment for our classrooms or for students in need.







# Te Ao Mārama

SCHOOL

33 Hare Puke Drive, Hamilton.



[www.facebook.com/Te-Ao-Mārama-School](https://www.facebook.com/Te-Ao-Mārama-School)

[www.teaomarama.school.nz](http://www.teaomarama.school.nz)

**He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tāngata, he tāngata, he tāngata**  
You ask me what is the greatest thing on Earth, My reply is it is people people people