

Pōhiri

A pōhiri is a traditional Māori welcoming ceremony. It's a significant part of Māori culture, serving to acknowledge and welcome visitors onto ancestral land or into a community.

What is it?

Traditionally, pōwhiri were used by Māori as an important ritual that removed the 'tapu' (sacredness) from the manuhiri (guests/visitors) to make them part of the tangata whenua (people who belonged to that marae/land). A pōwhiri is a way to welcome our new students and families into our Taumata whānau. At the same time, we proudly embrace this tikanga (custom) as we recognise our unique bicultural identity as a school in Aotearoa New Zealand.



What do we believe?

Bishop (2008) argues that schools need to move beyond superficial forms of cultural inclusion and instead adopt practices that genuinely empower and validate the cultural identities of Māori students. This includes integrating Māori language, customs, and ways of knowing into the curriculum, classroom environment, and school culture. Riki-Waaka (2017) contends that educators bear a moral and ethical responsibility to safeguard and uphold te reo Māori, tikanga Māori, and the rich tapestry of our bicultural heritage.



Links to research.

- Te Mātaiaho - Refreshed New Zealand Curriculum
- Bishop, R. (2008). Culture Counts: Changing Power Relations in Education. Pearson Education New Zealand.
- Riki-Waaka, J. (2017). Giving mana to Tiriti o Waitangi in our schools [Blog post]. Tātai Aho Rau Core Education.

