

Cultural Policy and Procedures



Licensing Criteria: Curriculum: C6

Rationale

Our curriculum respects and supports the right of each child to be confident in their own culture and encourages children to understand and respect other cultures. Our philosophy states tamariki, whānau and kaiako are valued and celebrated for their individuality and the special strengths and knowledge they bring to this place. We honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi and our people are empowered to learn and grow within our cultural community (whānaungatanga, manaakitanga and ako).

Objectives

- To ensure that kaiako respond effectively to the diverse language and cultural experiences and the varied strengths, interests and needs of individuals and groups of ākonga.
- To select teaching approaches, resources, technologies, learning and assessment activities that are inclusive and effective for diverse ākonga.
- To support all our whānau to feel welcomed, safe, secure and trusting that their cultural connectedness is supported within our environment.

Procedures

- Kaiako establish a respectful relationship with all whānau from first contact.
- The cultural identity of the whānau may be established at this time e.g. informal conversation/greeting/questioning.
- On enrolment, documentation included in the welcome pack (Ko taku ingoa sheet) will include a cultural identity pepeha.
- A welcome page in the child's portfolio reflects their ethnicity through the flag of the countries the family identifies with.
- The welcome pack serves as a prompt for exchange of ideas about experiences that will make the tamariki and whānau feel welcome.
- This could include sharing of stories, customs, rituals valued by the cultures represented in our community.
- Artefacts of cultures represented in our community may be on display
- Celebration of significant days/festivals may be recognised throughout the Kindergarten year and those families who do not wish to participate in these celebrations for whatever reason, will be respected and a solution found so everyone feels included, valued and heard. .

- Kaiako may share their cultural identities as part of these celebrations.
- Learning experiences centred on cultural identities will be offered and shared within the kindergarten community for all tamariki and their whānau.
- The child's cultural identity will be reflected back to them throughout their portfolio.

Review

Policy will be reviewed bi-annually as per our review schedule or when a change is required.

Ratified	
Date Reviewed	28th March 2023
Next Review Date	28th March 2025
Consultation undertaken	Yes

References

- Te Whāriki Early Childhood Curriculum 2017 Communication Strand.
- Education (Early Childhood services) Regulations 2008 Regulation 43
- Licensing Criteria for Early Childhood and Care Services 2008