



TITAHU BAY SCHOOL
Kura Kids are Believers & Achievers

Religious Instruction Policy

Titahi Bay School recognises, values, and celebrates the positive relationships and diverse cultures represented within our school, that reflect our Kura values in interactions between students, teachers, parents, and our wider community.

At Titahi Bay School we recognise that having belief systems which influence how individuals or groups of people see the world they live in, is an essential aspect of being human. Religious Instruction is the teaching or endorsing of a particular faith. Religious instruction is not part of the New Zealand Curriculum or Te Marautanga o Aotearoa. Religious instruction is not offered at Titahi Bay School while the school is open for instruction.

Note: The Education Act 1964 (Section 78) allows for religious instruction or observance during periods when a school is closed for instruction. Allowing religious instruction or observance to take place outside normal teaching hours when the school is closed for instruction is considered to be consistent with providing a secular education. It is understood that a school is closed for instruction before school, after school or during the lunch break.

The board acknowledges the use of waiata and karakia during school assemblies, powhiri and other school events. As part of our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the board considers this as a cultural practice, rather than religious observance. Children may still opt out, or be opted out by their parents, if they wish.

Purpose

The board recognises that religious instruction programmes can provide opportunities for children to explore interests, develop their talents and further develop their social skills and cultural understanding. These opportunities compliment the classroom programme and provide another avenue to learning and personal growth. Religious instruction programmes at Titahi Bay School are outside of the NZ Curriculum: they are optional for students to participate in and participation requires signed parental consent.

A religious instruction programme is run by a third party organisation which applies to or is invited to interact with the school. (e.g. Supakidz)

Decision Making Process for allowing religious instruction programmes to operate at Titahi Bay School

Groups can apply to the school for consideration to run their programme. If a specific need is identified then school management may initiate contact with a programme to run at the school. Programmes will be assessed on the following criteria by management and a recommendation made to the board. Approval to run a programme will be given or declined accordingly.

Policy approved:

Review date:

- The programme is aligned with the school's strategic plan.
- There is no direct cost to the school for the programme.
- Programme materials are of good quality.
- The programme is for the benefit of the participants rather than the Programme Provider.
- All programme staff and volunteers are subject to the Titahi Bay School Child Protection Policy and related Vetting Requirements.
- An appropriate space is available and there is no impact on the school's operations through the use of the space when the school is not open for instruction.

Expectations of the Programme Provider

Programmes at Titahi Bay School must meet the following expectations:

- Abide by the school's policies on behaviour management, discipline, safety and emergency procedures.
- Use positive language that children understand.
- Respect the range of experiences and beliefs represented by the families and children in the school.
- Co-operate with the Principal and school staff.
- Be familiar with and follow Titahi Bay School's health and safety policies and procedures
- Meet the relevant vetting requirements for their staff and volunteers.
- Always be on time and leave the room in a tidy and settled condition.
- Ensure school property is looked after and notify management of any damage.
- Only educate children about values and beliefs but never proselytise.
- Use a roll and only include those who have been opted in by their parents or caregiver.
- Operate a programme for no more than 45 minutes per week within Titahi Bay School.
- Only run while the school is closed for instruction (e.g. Lunchtime).

Review of Programmes

The Titahi Bay School Board of Trustees reserves the right to withdraw approval for a programme at any time. All programmes are required to provide a report of activity on an annual basis.

Relevant Legislation

Education Act
Human Rights Act

Relevant documentation

Religion in Schools - Human Rights Commission
Guidelines on religious instruction in State primary and intermediate schools - Ministry of Education

Signed

Board of Trustees Chair

Principal

Policy approved:

Review date: