



## **Rāwhiti School**

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**Please feel free to contact us if you have questions/queries.**

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Rāwhiti School

# **Ata Hāpara Bilingual Unit**

*Hāpara te ata  
Haehae te ata  
Tākiri te ata*



Rāwhiti School provides bi-lingual education (English/Te Reo Māori) for students from New Entrant to Year 8 level.



### **Our bilingual unit ~ Ata Hāpara:**

Ata Hāpara refers to the morning chorus - which originally was deafening in Aotearoa. This name gives inspiration to our bilingual teachers and learners, whose every effort is directed towards the reinvigoration of reo Māori in our community. We feel that the name Ata Hāpara fits well with our kura name, Rāwhiti, and helps to define their special role within the whole school.



### **What is bilingual education?**

Māori-medium programmes focus on improving the students' Māori language skills and they also aim to revitalise the Māori language. Bilingual programmes are grouped into four levels, based on their level of immersion (teaching in Māori). Our bilingual unit, Ata Hāpara is Level 2, where the children are taught in Māori for between 51% and 80% of the time.

Our aim is for tamariki graduating from Ata Hāpara to do so with strengths in the use of both languages, with strong identify and self esteem, and with the knowledge and skills to stand with confidence in both the Maori and Pākehā worlds.

### **Who is Ata Hāpara and bilingual education for?**

The bilingual option is for ANYONE who is interested. You do not have to be Māori to be part of the unit.



### **Why bilingual?**

Becoming biliterate, or being able to read and write in two languages, is the key educational advantage that students in Māori-medium education will have over students in English-medium contexts.

Learning to speak, read and write in Māori means that students are more likely to succeed academically in both Māori and English. The skills students learn for Māori will also help them with their English.

- The many advantages of being able to communicate and think in two languages
- A sound understanding of Tikanga Māori.
- A sound knowledge of the heritage of Aotearoa, and the significance of our local area to Māori.
- Strong cultural identity
- Strong self esteem



### **What is expected of whanau?**

In Māori-medium programmes, most of the students speak Māori as their second language – most come from homes where English is the first language. So our bilingual programme focuses on improving the students' Māori language skills while aiming to revitalise the Māori language.

To be successful, bilingual programmes also need strong support from whānau and the community. Even if parents and whānau do not know much Māori themselves, they can still encourage their children to speak and read to them in Māori at home, wherever possible. This will help everyone at home to learn more Māori!

### **2016 staff:**

Whaea Jasmine Stirling —Kaiwhakahaere/Team Leader

Whaea Amanda Taueki-Kinghazel —Kaiako/Teacher

Whaea Lauren Yaxley — Kaiako/Teacher

Whaea Te-Anawa Hogan—Kaihapai/Teacher Aide



***E tiu ana i te ata hāpara***

The dawn chorus sounds at daybreak