



Rāwhiti School
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Please feel free to contact us if you have questions and for a
Bilingual Studio Information Form.

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Rāwhiti School
Ata Hāpara Bilingual Studio

*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 Studio ~ 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 te reo Māori. We feel that the name Ata Hāpara fits well with our kura name, Rāwhiti (the rising sun, the east). Our dream is to create a greater community of bi-lingual Maori speaker in the East of Ōtautahi.



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 Studio, 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 identity and self esteem, and with the knowledge and skills to stand with confidence in both the Māori and Pākehā worlds.

Who is bilingual education for?

The bilingual option is for ANYONE who is interested. You do not have to be Māori to be part of the Studio. As part of the enrolment into Ata Hāpara, our Kaiwhakahaere will contact you to discuss your child's and your whānau commitment to this special programme.

The number of students who are able to participate in this programme is limited and priority for acceptance into the programme is for applicants:

- Residing in the home zone and with siblings already in Ata Hāpara
- Residing in the home zone
- Residing outside the home zone with siblings currently in Ata Hāpara
- With extended whānau connections (eg.cousins)
- All other applicants.

Why bilingual?

People who speak more than one language have improved memory, problem-solving and critical-thinking skills, enhanced concentration, ability to multitask, and better listening skills.

Learning to speak 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, knowing where they stand, their tūrangawaewae.



What is expected of whānau?

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' 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!



Mō tātou, ā, mō kā uri ā muri ake nei

For us and our children after us