



Celebrations and Cultural Practices Policy

Version 1 | Mahi Tuatahi

Effective Date | [Whakamana tahito](#) : September 2026 | [Hepetema 2026](#)

Next Review | [ā houanga arotake](#): September 2028 | [Hepetema 2028](#)

Policy Owner | [Rangatira Kaupapa Māhere](#): Chief Executive Officer

Key Accountabilities | [Ngā Takonga Tuatahi](#): Senior and Visiting Teachers

Introduction | [Tīmatanga Kōrero](#)

The purpose of this policy is to:

Provide guidelines so that programmes and resources take account of the values and customs of the children attending and are inclusive of ethnic, cultural, social and individual practices.

Applies To | [Ko Wai Whakahāngaitia](#)

This policy applies to all People, Teachers, Visiting Teachers, Drivers, Drivers Assistants and TONI Educators employed or contracted by He Whānau Manaaki o Tararua Free Kindergarten Association (Whānau Manaaki).

General Principles | [Mātāpono Whānui](#)

1. Programmes will:
 - acknowledge and value Te Tiriti o Waitangi;
 - reflect the diversity of the kindergarten and home-based community;
 - provide opportunities to learn about and respect the cultures which make up the society of Aotearoa;
 - be responsive to the significant cultural events/festivals of the kindergarten and home-based community.
 - be inclusive - with celebrations/events upholding inclusive language, respectful interactions, anti-bias and anti-discriminatory practices; and provide equitable opportunities for all individuals (tamariki, families and kaiako) irrespective of sex, gender identity, disability, neurodiversity, ability and support needs, age, ethnicity, religion, family structure and values and socio-economic status or background.
2. Children will not be excluded from attending, and teachers or TONI Educators will not request that a child be kept away from kindergarten or a home-based service because their family's beliefs differ from those of the teacher(s), TONI Educator, or other families. Families may choose to keep their child at home if they feel uncomfortable; however, teachers and TONI Educators should work collaboratively with families to develop a shared understanding and support the child's inclusion wherever possible. This may require negotiation with the family concerned. Where assistance is needed to reach a shared understanding, teachers and TONI Educators should contact their Senior or Visiting Teacher.



Relevant Legislation and Regulations | [Whaitake Ture me Waeture](#)

- Education (Early Childhood Centres) Regulations 2008
- Education (Home-based Education and care) Regulations 2008

Related Procedures or Processes and Documents | [Pākanga Tukanga me Pukapuka](#)

- Inclusive Education Policy
- Food and Drink Policy
- Supervision Plans/Procedures
- Risk Assessments - Guidelines
- Ministry of Health: Reducing Choking for Babies and Young Children Guidelines

Policy Review Cycle | [Kaupapa Arotake Hurihanga](#)

This policy is to be reviewed every two years. Whānau Manaaki may amend or cancel this policy or introduce a new policy, as it considers it necessary within the current cycle of the policy. Any amendments will be considered by the policy Working Group and will need to be approved by the Senior Leadership Team and the Board. The policy will continue on the same review cycle.

