

East Taieri School



East Taieri School Strategic Plan 2026



Our Vision, Mission Statement and Whakatauki

Our Vision:

Whakamana, whakaohoho, manaaki, i a tātou e ako ana, e tipu ngātahi ana.
Empower, Inspire, and Care as we Learn and Grow Together

Our Mission Statement:

To work together in a positive, supportive environment, providing excellence in teaching and learning, where all people are respected and skills for life are developed.

Whakatauki:

Poipoia te kākano kia puawai. Nurture the seed and it will blossom.

East Taieri School Values and Learner Qualities



Values Statement

These values are evident in our school's philosophy, structures, curriculum, classrooms and relationships. They are strongly held, clearly articulated and expressed in everyday actions within the school. Students, staff and the wider community have had input into deciding on the values of our school.



Learner Qualities Statement

These are the critical skills/attributes we believe our learners will need in the future to be able to utilise the technologies that don't yet exist, be employable for the jobs that don't yet exist, and to solve the problems of the world that don't yet exist.


Information Informing this Plan

We have enriched our strategic plan through robust community consultation which involved surveying parents & students, carrying out a home-based learning task for students and their families to engage, whānau hui and BOT sessions, and student voice through wellbeing surveys. The consultation process has allowed us to gather a wide array of voices and perspectives as we prepare for 2026 & 2027. The primary themes that emerged from our community consultation underscored the ongoing emphasis on curriculum, the prioritisation of the well-being of both ākonga and staff, and the sustained commitment to cultural responsiveness & inclusivity for all learners.

Strategic Goals

Strategic Goal	Actions	Success / Outcomes
<div data-bbox="333 628 521 815" data-label="Image"> </div> <p><u>Tahi</u> - Curriculum/Teaching and Learning</p> <p>Continue to foster an inclusive and culturally responsive curriculum that empowers, inspires and cares for ākonga. Highly effective teaching will ensure that our curriculum will nurture well-rounded individuals with strong values and success for all, by providing clear learning pathways and maintaining high expectations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Implement the curriculum refresh changes through the ongoing development of our local school curriculum and relationship with tangata whenua. ● We will ensure our school curriculum is culturally responsive and inclusive for all ākonga. ● Build awareness of Te Mātaiaho with kaiako and our school community. ● Continue to develop and embed our Learner Qualities framework across the school. ● School values are reflected and celebrated in all aspects of school life. ● Continue to develop and strengthen our teaching, learning and assessment practices in Literacy and Maths to improve engagement and achievement levels of all ākonga. ● Ensure there is consistency of practice, expectations, assessment and reporting for all kaiako. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Our curriculum actively reflects Te Mātaiaho and our communities' priorities for their tamariki and local tangata whenua priorities for our kura. ● Kaiako are clear and confident about the learning that matters within our local curriculum, and access and utilise it easily with ākonga. ● Systems and processes are established to measure and report on individual and kura wide student progress. ● Kaiako are consistently teaching and assessing tamariki, and reporting this clearly to whānau. ● Kaiako are using assessment (both summative and formative) to inform planning. ● Our planning documents and whānau communications clearly articulate the framework of Te Mātaiaho. ● Kaiako confidently apply their understanding of the kaupapa to design learning that is

		<p>grounded in local context.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Learner Qualities provide the shared language for our lessons, enabling ākonga to set clear goals and reflect on their growth as learners. ● Ākonga and kaiako have shared language and expectations around our learner qualities. ● Ākonga articulate our school values and demonstrate them through their actions in both the classroom and playground.
Strategic Goal	Actions	Success / Outcomes
<div data-bbox="333 539 521 724" data-label="Image"> </div> <p><u>Rua</u> - Wellbeing Continue to foster a school culture that places the wellbeing of kaiako and ākonga at the forefront. This culture will be characterised by positive relationships, a profound sense of belonging, a secure and nurturing environment, and a commitment to strong core values.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop and implement a comprehensive wellbeing programme (or initiatives) for both ākonga and kaiako to support social emotional learning, and a sense of belonging. ● Embed our strong core values and learner qualities throughout the curriculum, fostering discussions, tasks, and lessons that emphasize and reinforce these values within the school community. ● Proactively maintain, manage, and enhance our property to ensure that East Taieri School provides an attractive and healthy environment for tamariki, whānau and kaiako. ● Establish a "Tuakana-Teina" mentoring system where older students are trained to support younger students in developing social skills and inclusive play during break times. ● Develop a designated sensory "Quiet Space" that has a range of tools (fidgets, noise-canceling headphones, breathing guides) for students needing to self-regulate. ● Conduct a "Physical Environment Audit" with student leaders to identify "hot spots" in the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kaiako and ākonga report a deep sense of belonging and inclusivity, evidenced by high levels of engagement in wellbeing initiatives and a school environment where everyone feels safe to be themselves. ● Positive, nurturing relationships are at the heart of our kura, with ākonga and kaiako demonstrating the social-emotional skills needed to navigate challenges with empathy and respect. ● All of our tamariki and their whānau will feel included and connected to East Taieri School. They will see themselves and their culture being valued, celebrated and respected. ● Our school values and learner qualities are seamlessly integrated into daily planning and practice, moving beyond posters on the wall to become the lived experience of our school community. ● Ākonga can articulate how our core values help them grow, showing increased confidence and resilience in both their learning and their social interactions. ● A comprehensive wellbeing framework is fully embedded, ensuring that mental health

	<p>school that feel less safe or welcoming, and create an action plan to beautify or improve those areas.</p>	<p>and social-emotional support are prioritised as foundations for all educational success.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Our kura will be a well maintained and healthy environment and we will continue to ensure that we have excellent and up to date facilities.
Strategic Goal	Actions	Success / Outcomes
 <p><u>Toru</u> - Whakawhanaungatanga We will strengthen relationships with our community through genuine partnership, enabling participation, collaboration, information sharing, and involvement. We will recognise and embrace the language, identity, and culture of all whānau in our school community. We will foster a school culture that emphasises care, leadership, and belonging. We recognise the significance of Te Tiriti o Waitangi as Aotearoa’s founding document, promote the awareness of the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Te Ao Māori, and continue to strengthen, improve, and promote our children’s understanding of Te Reo.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collaborate with local mana whenua to research and articulate a cultural narrative that reflects the history, landmarks, and kōrero of the Taieri, ensuring our school identity is grounded in its unique place within this landscape. ● Foster authentic partnerships with local iwi and hapū to ensure local pakiwaitara (stories) and history are central to our school identity. ● Weave the use of Te Reo Māori and Tikanga within daily school life, ensuring it is used with purpose and respect in all settings. ● Implement a sustainable professional growth pathway for all staff to build their cultural competency and understanding of Te Tiriti in education. ● Partner with Whānau Māori to enable their voice to guide and inform school decision-making and strategic direction. ● Review school the environment and logos/images/branding to ensure the visual and physical landscape of the school reflects our community. ● Develop a culturally responsive framework that acknowledges Te Tiriti as our foundation while actively celebrating the "languages, symbols, and stories" of all ethnic groups within our kura. ● Facilitate opportunities where whānau from 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Our local history is a lived part of our curriculum, with ākongā and kaiako demonstrating a deep connection to the land and its stories. ● Te Reo Māori is heard and seen naturally throughout the kura, and tikanga is practiced with confidence by staff and students alike. ● Kaiako understand how Te Tiriti can inform and guide their practice, consistently designing learning that upholds the mana of ākongā Māori and their whānau. ● Whānau report a strong sense of partnership, feeling that their aspirations for their tamariki are heard and acted upon. ● Our school environment embodies the relationship between Māori and all cultures, where Māori identity is visible, celebrated, and valued as a foundation of our school. ● Every child sees their culture reflected in the school environment and curriculum, fostering a profound sense of place and belonging. ● Whānau from all cultures report feeling empowered and informed, participating actively in the life and direction of the school.

	<p>all backgrounds are invited to lead learning, sharing their unique knowledge, traditions, and expertise.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen communication pathways to ensure that language or cultural differences are never a barrier to whānau engagement and partnership. 	
Strategic Goal	Actions	Success / Outcomes
<div data-bbox="338 432 521 616" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Whā - Engagement Regular attendance at school is important to the success of ākongā and there is a clear connection between academic outcomes and overall wellbeing. Making sure that ākongā attend school regularly is a shared responsibility between whānau and school.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the 'Home-School' connection by sharing regular, positive updates on student learning and classroom life that make ākongā want to be present. Foster a high-engagement learning environment where our curriculum makes learning relevant and exciting. Develop and refine an Attendance Management Plan that emphasizes early support and clear communication over punitive measures. Implement a positive focus on attendance and celebrate high levels of engagement and improved attendance patterns across the kura. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whānau report feeling more connected to the daily life of the school, viewing attendance as a vital foundation for their child's wellbeing and success. Student voice reflects high levels of engagement. Whānau and school work as partners, identifying and removing barriers to attendance before they impact learning. Ākongā feel a strong sense of purpose in coming to school, understanding how their presence contributes to their own growth and the class community.
Evidence		
<p>Success towards the strategic goals will be measured through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual targets Planning and reporting Ongoing ākongā learning and progress achievement data tracking and analysis Collation and tracking of stakeholder feedback 		