



Our Lady Star of the Sea School

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Tēnā koutou e te whānau o OLSOS,

We acknowledge the recent communication from the Minister of Education regarding the Government’s changes to the Education and Training Act and the expectations placed on school boards in relation to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

While the legislation now removes the explicit requirement for school boards to “give effect” to the Treaty, we want to reassure our community that our commitment to upholding Te Tiriti o Waitangi and its principles remains unwavering. At OLSOS, the Treaty is not simply a legal clause—it is a foundational relationship that guides who we are as a kura and how we serve our ākongā, whānau and wider community.

Our understanding of each of our tamariki—their identities, strengths and aspirations—helps us support them as learners while remaining deeply connected to their tūrangawaewae and the whenua beneath them. Te Tiriti principles continue to underpin daily life at OLSOS, informing our place-based curriculum, our celebration of identity and culture, and the strategic direction we set for the future of our school.

We place immense value on the reciprocal and special relationship we hold with Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke at Rāpaki, and more widely with Ngāi Tahu. Their partnership, guidance and manaakitanga help us deepen our understanding of te ao Māori, tikanga, histories, and the wellbeing of our learners. This relationship grounds our kura in

authentic local context and ensures that our ākonga experience meaningful connections to place, culture and community.

Regardless of recent legislative changes, we reaffirm that OLSOS will continue to:

- Embed te ao Māori perspectives and tikanga across teaching, learning and school culture
- Prioritise equitable and excellent outcomes for Māori learners
- Ensure that our policies, practices and curriculum reflect the cultural richness of Aotearoa
- Strengthen partnerships with whānau, iwi and our local hapū
- Foster a learning environment where every tamaiti feels seen, valued and supported to thrive

Our focus remains firmly on raising achievement for all students while maintaining a strong commitment to inclusion, wellbeing and cultural responsiveness. These values are central to who we are as a school and to the aspirations our community holds for our tamariki.

We thank you for your continued support of our ākonga, kaiako and kura. He waka eke noa we are all in this waka together.

Ngā mihi nui,

OLSOS School Board