



# Charter, Strategic Plan and Annual Plan

## 2021





At Birchville School/kura we are passionate about helping children/tamariki discover and achieve their potential. We recognise that people come with different values, cultures, strengths and needs and as a staff, together with our zoned community, we are committed to celebrating diversity and providing a quality education that meets the needs of all students. We see our role as helping our tamariki/children shine. We do this through genuine relationships, meaningful opportunities and a rich, integrated curriculum which challenges, engages, promotes and celebrates learning for all.

Our Vision/Tirohanga whanui:

## Learn to Love - Love to Learn    Ako ki te Aroha - Aroha ki te ako

**Learning to love / Aroha ki te ako** is all about building relationships. It's valuing each other in a culture of high trust, acceptance of diversity and a commitment to working together. It's also about finding the things that make us happy, that excite us, our passions and aspirations and that the more we learn the more likely we are to live full, happy lives.

**Love to learn / Ako ki te Aroha** is about instilling children with a passion for lifelong learning, and a positive mindset towards academic and social success. We want our learners to be aware of how they learn best, what they need to do next and demonstrate the ability to make informed choices on where, when and how they will make the required progress across the curriculum in a manner that is effective and targeted to their needs.

To implement our tirohanga whanui (vision) we have a strong community partnership, where we provide opportunities for parents and whānau to work alongside the staff at our kura to help develop strong connections with the tamariki. Our PTA (parent/teacher association) is very active in supporting our kura with various activities, together with a whānau group that are very supportive with our kaupapa Māori initiatives and Kapa Haka group. Communication is a must for ensuring a good partnership between whānau and teacher, we welcome feedback and keep our caregivers informed through Hero, email, facebook/messenger and phone in regards to their tamariki's learning/wellbeing.

We have continued to develop our environment to ensure we meet the needs of today's learners which means that we have had a huge focus on providing a flexible modern learning environment which caters to a range of learners and learning styles. Our collaborative approach to teaching and learning help in developing our play based and deep learning initiatives. Our 3 teaching spaces are currently **Emerald** - year 0-2, **Moonstone** - year 3-4 and **Sapphire** - year 5-6. We encourage whānau to come into our classrooms and get involved with these initiatives as well as helping in our library, gardens, breakfast club, co-ordinating sports teams and providing support and supervision on outings.

Our zoned kura community is a mix of ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds with our roll reflecting the multicultural nature of New Zealand society. Our current Māori students represent 25%. We currently have 8 full time teachers, 6 teaching assistants and 2 office staff. Our caretaker, cleaner and gardener are all whānau from within our community. We pride ourselves on creating a friendly environment that children/tamariki want to be part of. Alongside a focusing on academic progress, we offer a huge range of extra opportunities for the children/tamariki. These currently include a school wide Kapa Haka, the opportunity to learn music (guitar, keyboard, drums), leadership opportunities for all Sapphire tamariki, a wide range of individual and team sports, play on scooters, ride bikes on our BMX track and more!



## Our Values - Whanonga Pono

We believe that all of our tamariki are similar to Gemstones in that they are small but precious, they are diverse and unique, and they take time within the right environment to develop, grow and reach their potential.

Our GEMS are embedded within:

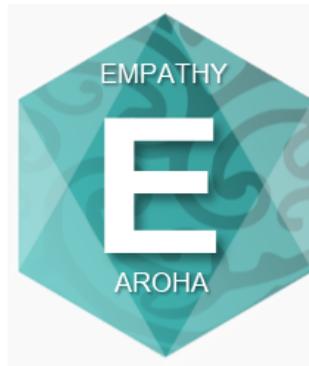
Love to learn/Ako ki te Aroha (Growth/Te Whanake) and Learn to love/Aroha ki te ako (Empathy/Aroha, Mana and Self Belief/ Tū Māia)



TEACHING AND LEARNING

AKO - WĀNANGA

Birchville students make the most of the opportunities to grow their confidence, knowledge, understandings and potential.



RELATIONSHIPS

WHANAUNGATANGA

Birchville students accept others for who they are. They value diversity and are able to participate and contribute in a range of social contexts. They show aroha for others



PRIDE, ACTIONS AND INTERACTIONS

MANAAKITANGA

Birchville students treat others with respect and kindness. Our mana is enhanced by the way we treat others. Humble on the outside, confident on the inside.



IDENTITY AND CONFIDENCE

TANGATA WHENUA

Birchville students demonstrate belief in themselves by trying new things, sharing their ideas or abilities, speaking up and using their initiative.



## Recognising Cultural Diversity

At Birchville School/kura we value our Māori tamariki and their whanau by ensuring all reasonable steps are taken to provide instruction in Tikanga Māori (Māori Culture) and Te Reo Māori (Māori Language) when requested and respecting their culture. Caring for students as Māori acknowledging their Mana (manaakitanga) and having high expectations (mana motuhake) is key to success.

Our [school's policies](#) and practices will provide opportunities for students to learn to respect the diverse ethnic nature and cultural heritage of New Zealand people with acknowledgement of the unique place of Māori and Pasifika. The school currently takes the following steps:

- Having high expectations for all students, including Māori and Pasifika students.
- Analysing Māori and Pasifika student achievement data and developing targets and action plans to address areas of need.
- Providing instruction in tikanga and te reo Māori for all students.
- Providing Kapa Haka instruction for all students.
- Developing an understanding of Ka Hikitia, Tātaiako and what we can do to meet the strategic goals.
- Providing all students with experiences and understandings in cultural traditions, languages and local history.
- Developing partnerships through consultation with our Māori and Pasifika parents and community.
- Providing leadership opportunities for our Māori and Pasifika students in a variety of contexts.

