



Wā Ora Montessori School Charter

2022 – 2025

Mission - Purpose

Wā Ora Montessori exists to:

Support each child's physical, moral, social, emotional and intellectual development so they can be the best they can be, believe in their intrinsic worth and have a positive influence on the world.

Vision – Our future ideal

A collaborative community offering an authentic Montessori education experience from 3 years to 18 years.

Values – What guides us morally

- Learning – to learn is to live fully. We pursue excellence in learning and living by encouraging and equipping people to be independent thinkers, eager to explore and experiment, and conscious of the possibilities and experiences that come from having a balanced, creative and well mixed life.
- Ecology – everything natural is interconnected. We are impressed and awed by nature. We must conduct our lives responsibly and sustainably, for we always affect other natural things.
- Generosity of spirit – good people create good people. Human communities make possible the greatest expressions of human goodness and achievement. Through our own school community, we live the values that create people who appreciate that sharing, working together, altruism and respect improves the experiences and potential of everyone in that community. We produce people who can bind together communities greater in size than ours – their neighbourhoods, towns and cities, to whole nations and the global community.
- A mutually supporting community – we are a thriving, energetic community of families, children and staff. School staff are 'Renaissance' people – capable across a wide range of areas, who challenge themselves to extend their learning and thrive on sharing their passion and mastery with our children. Our families invest their time, energy and trust in the school, bringing their strengths and skills to contribute; forming a support base for the school and for each other. Our children build a community where all are respected and each person's contribution is valued. They take pride in their environment, offer help to each other and experience joy in realising their full potential.

Guiding Principles

- To strive for students to achieve independence and self-confidence through the development of core competencies and knowledge by implementing the Montessori curriculum through Te Whāriki and The New Zealand Curriculum.
- To strive for the Montessori ideals within the framework of the Desirable Objectives and Practices and the National Education Guidelines
- To affirm and value the variety of cultures present within the Wā Ora community with particular emphasis on the unique place of Māori as tangata whenua and the principle of partnership inherent in Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Wā Ora's Special Character

The Montessori philosophy is fundamental to the existence of the school. We aim to provide an education founded on the teaching methods of Dr Montessori within a classroom designed to complement those methods. The effect is an environment, which encourages the integrated development of the individual child.

Our Special Character (as defined in the Integration Deed, 1993) is:

1. The Wā Ora Montessori School is part of an International network of Montessori schools and was established by parents in the Wellington community to serve the educational needs of its children by applying the philosophy of Dr Maria Montessori within the school.
2. The Special Character of this school is determined by the Montessori philosophy which is aimed at fostering the spiritual unfolding of each child's unique natural tendencies and the development of the philosophy of Cosmic Education.
3. Cosmic Education provides the philosophical reference for primary education in Montessori schools. In its broadest sense, this philosophy encompasses the concept of interdependence within the universe and individual responsibility for global harmony. Cosmic Education also includes the concept of education for life through which the child learns that caring is expressed through the basic attitudes of respect and responsibility.
4. The Montessori philosophy practised at Wā Ora includes
 - An acceptance of a philosophy that formal Montessori education occurs in three-year cycles.
 - An acceptance of a specific structured school environment which encourages individual choice through true discovery, a philosophy of adapting teaching approaches to children's individual learning needs.
 - Inner discipline which is nurtured through a philosophy of freedom with responsibility.
 - An acceptance that teachers, parents and children are interdependent elements within the philosophical framework of Cosmic Education.
5. The purpose of the school is to facilitate the development of the whole child through the experience of Cosmic Education, which will produce responsible, positive and peaceful members of society.
6. The Proprietors working in consultation with accredited Montessori teachers determine the Interpretation of the Special Character of the school.

Vision	A collaborative community offering an authentic Montessori education experience from 3 years to 18 years		
Purpose	To support each child’s physical, moral, social, emotional and intellectual development, so they can be the best they can be, believe in their intrinsic worth and have a positive influence on the world		
Strategic Objectives	<p style="text-align: center;">Curriculum</p> <p>To support each child/student’s progress and achievement against the NZ Curriculum and Te Whariki</p> <p>This will mean we continue to develop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support each child from where they are at to achieve success. • Area School - Promote academic excellence to support student’s achievements as lifelong learners. • Preschool - Fostering independence and a love of learning, play and working at their own pace. • Provide opportunities to contribute and participate in the wider school community (extra curricular) to work in partnership to support their development. • Recognising the importance of moral and social development in order to support the well-being of all children throughout the school. • Measure children's/students' progress and communicate this clearly to the students and their parents/caregivers 	<p style="text-align: center;">Te Tiriti Partnership</p> <p>To establish, maintain and improve equitable learning outcomes as Tiriti partners, recognising the importance of partnership with Māori in education</p> <p>This means we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with our whānau and its representatives through hui each term and provide a Māori representative role on the Council to achieve these objectives. • Establish and maintain connections and reciprocal relationships as a school, with local iwi and hapū. • Develop and visibly apply a bicultural approach in our school environment and by normalising te reo Māori inside and outside of our classrooms. • Build cultural understanding and opportunities for Māori involvement by practicing tikanga Māori school-wide. • Ensure our staff have the training and ongoing development opportunities to be confident in their teaching and understanding of te Ao Māori. • Establish and promote educational opportunities to improve cultural understanding and confidence throughout our community. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Montessori Authenticity</p> <p>To ensure we build, develop and practice an authentic Montessori programme and approach throughout the school aligned with MJ2X and the Wā Ora Montessori Essential Elements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Montessori environment fosters independence and engagement, appropriate to each plane of development. • Montessori learning environments are structured according to Montessori principles and offer multiple learning opportunities, both indoors and outdoors. <p>This means we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build a shared understanding of Montessori practice and approach with our staff, whānau and community.
Our 'enablers'	<p>Our People and Community An active and engaged school community is critical to achieving our vision and purpose, and ensuring delivery of the outcomes we seek. To achieve this we will actively engage our parents/caregivers, whānau and broader community, and support and develop our staff</p>		
	<p>Our Place We will develop, maintain and nurture a school environment and resources that support achievement of our of vision and purpose, better enabling our Montessori practice</p>		