

Strategic Plan: 2024 -2025

PIOPIO COLLEGE

TE KURA TUARUA O PIOPIO



OUR VISION	OUR MOTTO	OUR VALUES
<i>To create personalized learning opportunities that are flexible and authentic and meet each student's aspirational, educational needs whilst encouraging the pursuit of excellence.</i>	“Whakaara kia Mataara” - Aim High <i>(Pursue the treasure you value most dearly. If you bow your head let it be to a lofty mountain)</i>	Manaakitanga Rangatiratanga Whanaungatanga Kotahitanga

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Hoturoa and Tainui te waka

Hoturoa and his people embarked on a voyage from Hawaiki to New Zealand, making several stops around New Zealand along the way. Among these stops was Mōkau, where they sought refuge. Hoturoa, a chief and the commander of the waka Tainui, is revered as the ancestor of the Tainui people. The anchor stone of the Tainui waka is now housed at Maniaroa marae in Mōkau.

Te Piopiotanga o te rīwai

Originally called Te Piopiotanga o te rīwai by the Māori, which translates to "the withering of the potato," this area, now known as Piopio, was once abundant with crops and communal vegetable gardens. It played a crucial role in sustaining the local community. During a period of blight, the potato crops suffered, leading to their withering, a significant event that impacted the winter food reserves for the community.

The first settlement in the region was established in Paemako, where the inaugural school and trading store were established. As the area developed, other places like Te Piopiotanga o te rīwai were named subsequently.

Te Piopiotanga o te rīwai also served as a vital thoroughfare connecting the port of Mōkau to various other destinations, contributing to its importance in the region's transportation network.

Piopio Public School

In 1921, a pivotal moment in the history of Piopio occurred when 8 acres of Māori land were procured to establish Piopio School, which today houses the primary school. This marked the beginning of formal education in the area, providing local children with access to learning opportunities. As the community grew and educational needs evolved, significant expansion took place in 1957. An additional 16 acres of land were acquired to facilitate the growth of the school grounds, incorporating what would later become Piopio College. This expansion reflected the commitment to enhancing educational facilities and resources for the benefit of the students.

Piopio Public School holds a unique place in New Zealand's educational history. It was not only the first consolidated school in the country, but it also pioneered the introduction of a bus service, setting a precedent for transportation services for students nationwide. This innovation not only improved access to education for local children but also served as a model for educational infrastructure development across New Zealand.

Mōkau ki runga

Te Piopiotanga o te rīwai holds a significant position within the broader region of Mōkau ki runga. This area encompasses a rich cultural and historical heritage, deeply intertwined with the land, its stories, and its people. For the children attending school in this community, fostering a sense of belonging and connection is paramount. Each child is welcomed into the school not only as a student but as a member of Te Piopiotanga o te rīwai, imbued with the rights and responsibilities that come with that belonging.

Understanding the histories, stories, and future aspirations of Te Piopiotanga o te rīwai is considered essential for the children. It provides them with a framework to comprehend their place within the community and the wider world. By learning about the rich tapestry of traditions, experiences, and aspirations of their surroundings, they can develop a deeper sense of identity, purpose, and connection to their environment. This knowledge empowers them to navigate and contribute meaningfully to the world they inhabit, ensuring the continuity and preservation of their cultural heritage for generations to come.

SCHOOL CONTEXT

Nestled within the picturesque limestone landscape of the western region of the mighty King Country, Piopio College stands as a beacon of education in the heart of this beautiful region. Surrounded by the natural beauty of the area, the college serves as a vital educational hub for students hailing from Piopio and its surrounding farming communities. As a state co-educational secondary school, Piopio College caters to students spanning from years 7 to 13, offering a comprehensive educational journey from early adolescence to young adulthood. With an enrolment of approximately 140 students, the college fosters a close-knit community atmosphere, where every individual is valued and supported in their academic and personal growth.

Diversity is celebrated at Piopio College, with 60% of its student body tracing their heritage to the indigenous Māori people of New Zealand. This cultural richness adds depth and vibrancy to the educational experience, fostering an environment of mutual respect and understanding. At Piopio College, providing a positive, safe, and nurturing environment is a top priority. The school prides itself on offering a supportive "family" atmosphere where students feel valued and cared for. This ethos extends to the classroom, where a strong emphasis is placed on meeting the unique needs of each student. With small class sizes, dedicated and qualified staff, and comprehensive support services, Piopio College ensures that every student has the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential.

Wharekura



Since its establishment in 1993, our Wharekura, named "Whakaara kia Mataara," has stood proudly at the forefront of Piopio College, serving as a beacon of cultural significance and educational purpose. Positioned strategically, it welcomes the first rays of morning light from the east, as the Sun ascends over our sacred mountain, Kahuwera, imbuing the space with a sense of reverence and connection to the land.

Derived from the traditional whare runanga or wananga, the term "wharekura" holds deep cultural significance, symbolizing our school's fundamental purpose: education. Within its walls, the spirit of Tikanga Māori and Te Reo Māori thrives, providing a dedicated space for cultural learning and immersion.

More than just a physical structure, our wharekura serves as the focal point for important ceremonies and rituals within our school community. It is here that the pōwhiri, a traditional welcome ceremony, unfolds, extending warmth and hospitality to new students, staff, and whānau alike. This symbolic act not only initiates newcomers into our educational environment but also reinforces the values of inclusivity, respect, and cultural pride that underpin our school ethos.

PATHWAYS FOR ALL STUDENTS

Piopio College prides itself not only on its robust online learning platforms and comprehensive curriculum but also on its integration of the local curriculum, enriching our students' understanding of our community and the broader world. Our courses are thoughtfully crafted to leverage the unique strengths of our local area, with a dedicated focus on local curriculum design ensuring that learning experiences are engaging, authentic, and directly relatable to students' personal lives and experiences. Central to our educational approach is the establishment of clear pathways for students from year 7 to 13, aligning with the aspirations of both learners and their families. Our college encourages students to pursue their passions and aspirations, providing tailored learning programs designed to support their individual journey.

Our commitment to excellence extends beyond traditional boundaries, with our online learning communities offering senior students access to a wealth of additional resources, expert guidance, and collaborative opportunities with peers from across the nation. This initiative has broadened the horizons for students in our small rural setting, granting access to subjects and courses that were previously inaccessible. At the heart of our curriculum lies authenticity and relevance. We recognize the imperative of delivering a curriculum that not only captivates students' interest but also equips them with the skills and knowledge necessary for success in the real world. Our curriculum places a strong emphasis on fostering critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity, all while adhering to the latest educational standards and best practices.

In our inclusive learning environment, we honour the uniqueness of every child, endeavouring to create a supportive ecosystem that caters to diverse learning needs. Our holistic approach encompasses not only academic subjects but also social-emotional learning, physical education, and the arts, ensuring a well-rounded educational experience for all. Furthermore, we firmly believe in the importance of connecting students with their local heritage, fostering a deep sense of identity and belonging by exploring the rich tapestry of our history, culture, and environment. Through this exploration, our students develop a profound understanding of their roots, empowering them to navigate the world with confidence and purpose.

STRATEGIC GOAL 1: HAPORI *Our focus as a school is to..... promote an inclusive culture that embraces and respects all individuals. (NELP: 1, 2, 3, 5)*

<i>To achieve this, we will.....</i>	<i>We will know we are successful when.....</i>
<p>1.1 Organise events, activities, and initiatives that celebrate the diverse backgrounds, cultures, and identities represented within the school community. Encourage participation and collaboration across different groups.</p>	<p>Feedback from whānau and community. Increase in participation and engagement. PB4L – acknowledgement through prize givings/assemblies</p>
<p>1.2 Acknowledge and celebrate instances where inclusivity and respect are demonstrated within the school community. This could include recognising individuals or groups who have actively contributed to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion, whether through academic achievements, extracurricular activities, or acts of kindness and empathy.</p>	<p>Wider participation in success celebrations.</p>

STRATEGIC GOAL 2: WAANANGA

Our focus as a school is to..... offer stimulating and demanding educational experiences to ensure the success and growth of all individuals. (NELP: 2, 3, 5)

<i>To achieve this, we will.....</i>	<i>We will know we are successful when.....</i>
<p>2.1 Integrate local history, culture, and community issues into the curriculum. By connecting learning to students' lived experiences and surroundings, you make the content more meaningful and relatable. Forge partnerships with local organisations, businesses, and community members to enrich the curriculum with authentic learning experiences. Establish coherent pathways for students as they strive to meet their aspirations.</p>	<p>Localised curriculum reviewed and completed. Careers advice and guidance provided to all students. Focus group feedback/student voice</p>
<p>2.2 Encourage collaboration among teachers to share best practices, resources, and strategies for providing stimulating and demanding educational experiences. Invest in ongoing professional development opportunities to build cultural competency and support teachers in effectively implementing innovative instructional approaches.</p>	<p>Build teacher capacity and competency – PGC feedback Curriculum documents align with NZ Curriculum and link to the annual implementation plan and school strategic goals.</p>

STRATEGIC GOAL 3: MANAAKITANGA

Our focus as a school is to create a learning environment at Piopio College that fosters and enriches the well-being/houora of all students.
(NELP: 2, 3, 4, 6, 7)

To achieve this, we will.....

We will know we are successful when.....

3.1 Recognise and celebrate the unique strengths, talents, and contributions of all students. Offer opportunities for students to showcase their abilities through academic, artistic, and extracurricular pursuits, and provide encouragement and support for their aspirations.

Celebrations through prize giving and assemblies.
Student voice/survey feedback

3.2 Ensure that the physical environment of the school is safe, welcoming, and conducive to learning

Feedback and survey results.

3.3 Engage families and community members as partners in promoting student well-being. Communicate regularly with parents about school initiatives and resources related to well-being, and collaborate with local organisations to provide additional support and opportunities for students.

Improvement in survey results.
Students who have experienced wellbeing challenges have transitioned away from formal support.

STRATEGIC GOAL 4: WHANAUNGATANGA

Our focus as a school is to.....enhance our connections with whānau, iwi and the broader community through strengthened partnerships. (NELP: 1, 3)

To achieve this, we will.....

We will know we are successful when.....

4.1 Maintain open and transparent communication channels with our kahui āko, whānau, iwi, and community members. Provide regular updates on school activities, achievements, and upcoming events through newsletters, social media, and community meetings.

Well co-ordinated communications in place that meet the needs of all stakeholders.

Progress and achievement reporting systems where whānau are well informed of the progress of their child/young person.

4.2 Establish partnerships with local iwi, marae, and community organisations to enrich learning experiences for students. Collaborate on projects, initiatives, and educational programs that incorporate Māori perspectives, knowledge, and resources. Invite guest speakers, cultural experts, and kaumātua to share their expertise with students and staff.

Important liaison personnel appointed.

Effective working relationships with Te Nehenehenui