



# Our Vision

**A COUNTRY SCHOOL WITH A VIEW...TO THE FUTURE**

*Ngā Purapura Akoranga Ake Tonu Atu*  
**Together we build life-long learners**

## Our Values

We believe that every learner has unique qualities and skills; that each has talents and interests that should be used to develop their learning in all areas. The Otamarakau Community supports and encourages creative thinking and high expectations in all that we do.

## Our AROHA Principles

The Māori word for love. Aroha helps us feel connected with each other and to value the specialness of each person. It is about treating people with thoughtfulness and kindness and doing something good to make life better for others. With aroha, we can accomplish more together than any one of us could alone.

Therefore, we believe the principles will encourage:

- enthusiasm and love of learning
- acknowledgment and praise of their successes
- respect for themselves and others
- responsibility for their own actions and behaviour
- a growth mind-set towards critical and creative thinking
- problem solving
- honestly at all times
- engagement in their learning

## Our AROHA Profile



**Awesome**

**Dream big,  
be the best I can be**



**Respect**

**Respect yourself,  
others, our school,  
our environment  
and community**



**Ownership**

**Take ownership of your  
learning and be  
a self-directed learner**



**Honesty**

**Be honest with  
yourself,  
others and  
those around you**



**Active  
Learner**

**Be engaged AND excited  
in your learning  
and the learning  
of others.  
Embrace ako and  
tuakana teina**

## Our Student Agency

The New Zealand Curriculum Key Competencies are a focus for learning and they enable learning. They are capabilities that young people need for growing, working and participating in their communities and society. We believe that Otamarakau learner agency combined with the NZ KC's, we are setting our learners up for success.

We believe learning through activities that are meaningful and relevant to learners, driven by their interests, and often self-initiated with appropriate guidance from teachers to be powerful. **Learner agency gives learners voice** and often, choice, in how they learn.

## Cultural Responsiveness

Otamarakau School values all heritage and culture. We believe in providing an environment where our Māori learners can confidently achieve success as Māori.

Therefore, we place high importance on:

- recognising the importance of dual language
- correctly pronouncing Māori words/names/place names
- identifying iwi affiliation
- learning programmes that reflect the needs and skills of Māori learners
- regular monitoring
- valuing kaupapa
- communicating/consulting with whanau and community

## Our Commitment

- emphasise and recognise a learner's 'AWESOMENESS'
- have high expectations for all children
- regard everyone as members of a learning community
- have positive relationships with children and community
- consult with parents to inform, share and develop a learning partnership
- recognise the importance, and support individual learning styles
- use evidence based learning styles

## Assessment & Reporting

- at Otamarakau we have a motto of TEST LESS NOTICE MORE RESPOND
- overall teacher judgments and assessments are used to respond to the gaps of our learners
- reporting to our parents is communicated both formatively and summatively
- the primary purpose of assessment is to improve students learning and teachers teaching as both learning and teacher respond to the information it provides

## Our Opportunities

No opportunities are limited and we believe in providing a range of experiences...

- Kapahaka, Fresh Moves, Choir, Piano Lessons
- Sports, Swimming, Cross Country, Athletics, Surfing, AIMS Games, Top Schools, EOTC
- Agricultural Day, Anzac Celebrations, Matariki, Production, Fishing Competition, Camps