

Takahe Room Philosophy

The takahe represents resilience, adaptability, and perseverance. Once thought extinct, the takahe embodies a spirit of survival despite adversity. In our room philosophy for tamariki, we draw parallels between the takahe's journey and the developmental growth of our tamariki. Just as the takahe navigates its environment with curiosity and strength, we encourage our tamariki to embrace challenges, explore their surroundings, and build the confidence needed to soar in new environments.

As the tuakana of our centre, preparing to embark on their next educational journey, we foster their independence, problem-solving skills, and social interactions, much like the takahe navigating its natural habitat. This is a crucial time for them to strengthen their sense of identity and belonging. By learning from the takahe's persistence and ability to adapt, we aim to instill these qualities in our tamariki, helping them approach the transition to school with confidence, resilience, and a deep-rooted connection to their cultural and natural world.

We are guided by the values of respect, manaakitanga (care and compassion), and whanaungatanga (relationships). Our vision is to equip children with the skills and confidence they need to thrive in the next stage of their educational journey, while remaining deeply connected to their cultural roots. We recognize that every child is unique, and we tailor our learning experiences to foster growth in each of these areas while promoting self-confidence and a love of learning. We encourage children to take ownership of their learning by providing opportunities to make choices, work independently, and collaborate with peers.

We believe in strong partnerships with whānau, recognising that families are children's first and most important teachers. We work closely with parents to support each child's learning journey and to ensure a smooth transition to school. Our kaiako play a supportive and responsive role, observing children's interests and providing opportunities for growth. We encourage reflective practice, ensuring that our approaches are continuously adapted to meet the needs of the children. We embrace diversity and provide a nurturing environment where children feel safe and supported. We place a strong emphasis on emotional wellbeing, helping children develop the skills they need to manage their emotions and build positive relationships, and where every child is valued and included.

As part of our commitment to bicultural practice, we incorporate *te reo Māori* and tikanga Māori into our daily routines and learning experiences. The *takahe* is a symbol of resilience and connection to our natural heritage, and we integrate stories, songs, and activities that reflect this into the children's learning.

We aim to nurture key dispositions in children, such as:

- **Confidence:** Helping children build self-assurance through new challenges and leadership roles.
- **Curiosity:** Encouraging a love for questioning, exploring, and experimenting.
- **Collaboration:** Promoting teamwork and respect for others' perspectives.
- **Resilience:** Teaching children to persevere and handle setbacks positively.