



AVONDALE  
COLLEGE

## Kohia Ngā Taikākā

This whakatauākī<sup>1</sup> is our school motto and describes the gathering of inner strength in learning and striving towards successful futures in life. Our motto describes the gathering of strength metaphorically in gathering the heartwood or the most prized and strongest part of timber and was first spoken by chief Kiwi Tāmaki of Te Waiohua iwi as he called for the gathering of loyalties "E kohia ngā taikākā totara" and likened to the strength of the totara tree.

## Mission Statement

In a caring and positive environment Avondale College will provide an education which enables all students to achieve personal standards of excellence in academic work as well as in the supporting areas of physical, cultural and social development.

<sup>1</sup> Whakatauākī is used to describe a proverb where the author is known, Whakatauki is used where the author is not known





1. Commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi
2. Type of School
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4. General description of the School
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8. Te Ao Māori
9. New Zealand's cultural diversity
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## 1. COMMITMENT TO TE TIRITI O WAITANGI

The Avondale College School Board commits to giving effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi including by working to ensure our plans, policies and curriculum reflect tikanga Māori, mātauranga Māori and te ao Māori, and making instruction available in tikanga Māori and te reo Māori.

## 2. TYPE OF SCHOOL

Avondale College is a co-educational secondary school with students from Year 9 to Year 13.

## 3. OUR VALUES



- Honesty – We will be trustworthy, fair and do the right thing
- Endeavour – We will give maximum effort to achieve our goals
- Atawhai – We will be kind, considerate and care for one another
- Respect – We will have respect for self, others and our environment
- Tenacity – We will demonstrate perseverance and show determination

## 4. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL

Avondale College is a large, suburban, co-educational, state secondary school, located on the Whau estuary and in the region of Pātiki, the rohe of iwi Te Kawerau ā Maki.

The College is located in central/ west Auckland, in one of Auckland's older suburbs, where many long-established homes and businesses give the area a sense of identity. The area is going through a phase of rapid demographic change with the development of Auckland. One of three schools on adjoining sites, Avondale College is fortunate in having its own spacious and attractively landscaped grounds and courtyards.

Avondale College students consistently achieve excellent academic results, across all areas of the school. Our curriculum has strong learning pathways with flexible, innovative courses, providing relevant opportunities for all. As well as the NCEA curriculum we offer Cambridge International qualifications, providing an alternative pathway to top universities and career opportunities, both in New Zealand and overseas.

Avondale College has state-of-the-art buildings and facilities. As a result of a major re-build, our learning spaces are purpose built, modern and connected to our world class IT network. Our students benefit from well-appointed classrooms, as well as specialist technology, performing arts, science and sports buildings, all within expansive, landscaped surroundings.

The College's facilities include the Avondale College Performing Arts Centre, a sports stadium offering squash courts and gymnasium seating up to 1,000, a new all-weather playing surface for netball and tennis, a fully equipped recording studio, two purpose built dance studios, a library offering extensive computer and printed resources, and an open-air theatre. It also has an artificial turf and pavilion. The facilities are open to the community and are well used by a variety of groups.

Specialised teaching facilities include a Whare Wānanga, a vibrant Fine Arts Department, the Ferguson Building housing state-of-the-art technology equipment, an industry level school ICT network and a Performing Arts Department that enjoys a reputation as one of the best in New Zealand. The College has a dedicated International Student Department, responsible for the pastoral care of our students who arrive from all corners of the globe.

A unique feature of the school is its Taurewa outdoor education programme run near National Park in the Central North Island and situated in the rohe of Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro.

The school also has a community Childcare Centre on site. The centre is overseen by the School Board, and the Business Manager is Licensee.

## **5. DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL'S COMMUNITY**

Avondale College serves socially and culturally diverse communities within the immediate catchment area, centred in Avondale and extending across a wide area of Auckland, being well served by public transport. Community support for the College has been strong over many years. The College continues to foster and enjoy strong relationships with its contributing schools and communities.

## **6. GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

Avondale College is committed to a quality education in which students are prepared to be the best they can be, and to participate fully in our ever-changing world.

The School Board and College staff will ensure that this education will address their learning needs and respect their dignity.

The School Board and College are committed to the well-being and professional development of all school staff.

The School Board and College are committed to:

- (a) ensuring that every student at the school is able to attain their highest possible standard in educational achievement;
- (b) giving effect to its obligation to take all reasonable steps to ensure that the school's students attend the school when it is open;
- (c) ensuring that the school uses good quality assessment and aromatawai information to monitor and evaluate students' progress and achievement, including any assessment or aromatawai specified in a foundation curriculum policy statement;
- (d) ensuring that the school—
  - (i) is a physically and emotionally safe place for all students and staff; and
  - (ii) gives effect to relevant student rights set out in current legislation;
  - (iii) takes all reasonable steps to eliminate racism, stigma, bullying, and any other forms of discrimination within the school;
- (j) ensuring that the school is inclusive of, and caters for, students with differing needs;
- (k) working to ensure its plans, policies and local curriculum reflect tikanga Māori, mātauranga Māori and te ao Māori;
- (l) taking all reasonable steps to make instruction available in tikanga Māori and te reo Māori;
- (m) seeking to achieve equitable outcomes for Māori students; and
- (n) taking reasonable steps to ensure that the policies and practices for the school reflect New Zealand's cultural diversity;
- (o) giving effect to its obligations in relation to—

- (i) any foundation curriculum statements, national curriculum statements, and national performance measures; and
  - (ii) teaching and learning programmes; and
  - (iii) monitoring and reporting students' progress;
- (p) performing its functions and exercising its powers in a way that is financially responsible.

All school activities will be designed to advance these principles.

## 7. SCHOOL COMMUNITY

To uphold the partnership between school, families, and community, Avondale College promotes an open-door policy to encourage full community involvement in the school. In addition to inviting the school community to engage with all school activities, the Board meets and consults with its community using methods such as:

- Meetings
- Events
- Surveys
- Communications and Publications
- Family and Student Connection
- Reporting to parents
- Informal qualitative feedback

## 8. TE AO MĀORI

The School Board acknowledges Māori as tangata whenua.

The Avondale College curriculum acknowledges the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, respecting te reo o ngā Māori, and the bicultural foundations of Aotearoa New Zealand. The curriculum will be responsive to the national priorities for ākonga, including [Ka Hikitea – Ka Hāpaitia](#) - The Māori Education Strategy, and Tau Mai Te Reo.

The College is committed to working in partnership with our Māori communities. The Board has established a relationship with Tangata Whenua in collaboration with our Kaumātua.

## 9. NEW ZEALAND'S CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Students are encouraged to share elements of their cultural heritage to celebrate New Zealand's cultural diversity.

All staff will treat students as individuals with unique differences, talents and cultural values and perspectives that will be respected.

Differing cultural backgrounds of students are viewed as adding to the tapestry and strength of the school.

The students' identities, languages, abilities and talents are recognised and affirmed in inclusive and contextualised ways.

Pasifika students have a special place in New Zealand and at Avondale College. In accordance with the [Action Plan for Pacific Education](#), Avondale College is committed to working with Pasifika learners, families and communities to ensure they are safe, valued and equipped to achieve their education aspirations.

## 10. OUR GOALS

### “Our Aim is Excellence”

As a result of our strong sense of community and connectedness, and aligned with the [New Zealand Curriculum](#), we aspire for departing Avondale College students to be:

- Confident

- Connected
- Actively involved
- Lifelong learners