

Explain why you believe the education programme you are proposing will be successful in improving achievement for the proposed student population.

I am not sure how to put this into words other than saying that my current students use a combination of correspondence material and resources that I have developed based on their interests – these include exams. The outcome is that these proven methods of learning have worked and continue to work.

Explain how the key teaching practices and evaluation and assessment strategies described above will enable your school to meet its stated goals.

Our pledge to the community is to offer an outstanding education to Intermediate and High School age children.

We must of course obey any national or district regulations that specify standardised testing and comparisons with other schools and these results will be made public.

More to come in the final proposal...

How will the learning environment look through the eyes of a learner in your school?

We intend to foster an atmosphere of unity and common aspiration for educational excellence at Tauranga Alpha Academy. To that end, we will use the following policies at our school to create a culture of acceptance and a focus on education instead of social differences and by doing so it is thought that every student will see learning as fun and rewarding by:

- There will be no racial, political, or cultural criteria for entry into the school and no space for indicating these on our application forms.
- Respect and tolerance for all races and cultures will be paramount at our school.
- No hate speech or action against any group or recruiting activities for specific political or cultural groups will be tolerated among students or staff.
- At Tauranga Alpha Academy, we believe that religion is a strictly private, personal issue. No hate speech or action against any religious group (including atheists) or recruiting (evangelical) activities for specific religious groups will be tolerated among students or staff.

These basic beliefs should enable our students the freedom to learn and enjoy learning without any judgement or bias.

Evaluation

Reviewers will be looking for an overview which demonstrates the following qualities:

- The learning, teaching and curriculum overview is clearly presented and strongly supports the school's statement of purpose and goals.
- If the NZC / TMOA are not the core documents, there is a clear description of how the proposed curriculum aligns with one of these documents and there is clear reasoning behind the selection of the proposed curriculum.
- There is a coherent explanation of why the proposed model will meet the needs of the proposed population.
- The strategies described in the learning, teaching and curriculum overview will enable the school to achieve its stated goals.

3. Community and External Engagement

Briefly describe the steps you have already taken to assess demand and/or support for the school and summarise your findings.

I currently run the most successful authentic learning programme working with young adults in the Tauranga area. I have 40 students that I work with by myself and through the past 3 years we have seen growth due to successful outcomes such as – drop in re-offending, drop in truancy, rise in academic achievement, and students moving forward towards their initial goals. Because I don't believe in doing things by half measures I have developed and earned the respect from numerous organisations that trust that my programme will deliver desired outcomes. They understand that I don't just talk-the-talk – I do the walking and do it well. Because of this, demand consistently increases and in fact I am in a position now where I am being approached by intermediates to work with the younger age group, plus a consistent demand from mainstream providers who – are excited by this proposal being put forward. I have taken the right steps to create demand by moving away from the standard 'Alternative Education' model – which in my opinion doesn't work and as seen by most social service organisations preferring me to work with their at-risk youth. The problem is that my current contract only allows me to work with those 16 to 19 because of my high numbers although I worked with ten 14 to 15 years olds last term with great success. Students, who have been stood-down from mainstream, have also demanded their intentions to enter my programme over alternative education. This is normally because my programme (and the intent for the Charter School) sees no violence, no tagging, no gang issues or the like – we have a communal learning environment whereby students learn to get on with each other. So – the demand is there and quite frankly Tauranga needs this opportunity as current alternative programmes are consistently failing our young learners – and I for one am too passionate to see this continue. I hope that you can hear my heart in what I do and would love to invite you to view my programme and speak with my students at any time.

What will be your next steps to secure parental support and student enrolments?

Parental support is no problem – I already have it and in fact the demand from the general public continues to increase – unfortunately I have to turn away close to 100 young people aged 13 to 16 every year.

How would you engage with the parent community on an on-going basis to ensure their engagement with, and support for, learning?

Parents will be invited to be a part of the planning process and will engage within the school as helpers when needed – such as, sports events, daily cooking, performances etc. Tauranga Alpha Academy also plans in the future to offer up a learning environment for parents who also need a second chance. This is empowering for the family when parents gain the desire to learn and set a more positive example to their children.

Describe the relationships, if any, that you have established to generate engagement in and support for the proposed school. This can include businesses and organisations beyond the immediate geographical community.

I have long standing relationships within the Tauranga area with all mainstream providers, social service organisations, local businesses, teachers and other professionals. From the initial talks that I have had it seems appropriate to say that all networks have a positive view towards my proposal and in fact there are numerous professionals wanting to take up teaching opportunities should they arise.

However, there is no way that I can run this by myself – and I would be arrogant to think this even considering my current successes. My first approach, should you indicate interest in my proposal, will be straight to Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu for their advice and their help. Since I would be initially looking at using their resources (should I have mentioned this earlier!) it seems appropriate that we sit down and see how this could work on a larger scale. It is important to note that I have spoken with a large volume of people to share ideas and visions so, when I say 'I' it is meaning 'us.'

Evaluation

Reviewers will be looking for:

- evidence that your choice of location and proposed student population is based on some genuine community engagement and identified support
- an understanding of ways to engage with the proposed community, including parents, and
- steps that have been taken to secure support from the wider community.

C. OPERATIONS PLAN

1. Leadership and Governance

List the known members of the school's proposed governing board and leadership team including their roles within the school. Include a brief description of the qualities, competencies and qualifications that each person brings to their role. Please provide as **Attachment 1**.

Evaluation

Reviewers will be looking for evidence of:

- a clear organisational structure with personnel who are capable of contributing the wide range of experience and expertise that will be needed to oversee the establishment and operation of a successful school; and,
- evidence of an understanding of the differentiation between governance and management.

2. Staffing

Provide as **Attachment 2**, an indicative staffing chart for the school. The staffing chart should identify positions to be established in 2014 as well as positions to be added in future years. This information should include proposed:

- school leadership
- teaching positions
- support staff, and
- operational staff.

Please include the nature of qualification/experience which will be expected for each group.

This chart should only identify positions, not specific individuals.

Teaching Staff – all teaching staff will hold at least a base-line degree within any field of expertise and have preferably some experience with working amongst disadvantaged youth. Initially, Tauranga Alpha Academy will start operations with two teaching staff to handle the first 2x15 lots of year 7 students. Apart from that there will be the principal who will direct all matters of the school and also provide student life coaching and also a school administrator.

It would be expected that Tauranga Alpha Academy will attract the likes of social services staff or social workers plus professionals with the desire to see students' lives and circumstances changed although, I have pre-determined the preference that most teaching staff are in fact trained teachers able to adequately cover the New Zealand Curriculum to our students. Subsequent teaching staff with a degree but no formal teacher training would be expected to train under the guidance of lead teachers as facilitators until confidence to handle a class is identified.

Support staff, otherwise known as contract specialist teachers will be utilised in the case of covering specific subject material or that which the class teacher is unable to cover.

Evaluation

Reviewers will be looking for a staffing chart that clearly identifies roles that will support the statement of purpose and goals of the school.

3. Proposed Enrolment

Complete the following table for the year levels your school intends to serve.

Year Level	Student Numbers					
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	At Capacity
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7	30	30	30	30	30	30
8		30	30	30	30	30
9			30	30	30	30
10				30	30	30
11					30	30
12						30
13						30

Describe the rationale for the number of students and year levels served in 2014 and the basis for any planned growth.

It is important to not over-do or stress the start of Tauranga Alpha Academy. It is crucial that we concentrate on the first intake of students and work hard at getting things as right as possible in the first year of operation. The idea of producing a school that focuses too much on large numbers can often forget the importance of what the Charter School intends to provide for its students in the first instance. Our Charter believes that by gradually increasing the student roll by the same number each year from year levels 7 to 13 that we can contain and adequately manage the Kaupapa of the School which, is based on relationship, authentic learning and equal learning opportunities amongst a diverse community of learners.

Evaluation

Reviewers will expect a table which demonstrates sustainable growth and a rationale which supports the statement of purpose.

4. Proposed Facilities

What facilities will you need to accommodate your school at set-up and at full enrolment?

Tauranga Alpha Academy will intend on occupying an open learning environment that doesn't 'enclose' our learners but rather that all learners from year 7 to 13 can co-exist and develop positively as a community rather than a hierarchy.

Describe how you intend securing these facilities.

We have allocated a disused sport facility at Mount Maunganui which has plenty of wide open space, natural sun-light with plentiful airflow and the ability to support 210 learners in areas that will promote strengthened learning without any problems associated with distractions.

Evaluation

Reviewers will expect to see evidence that you know what facilities you need to support your school as it develops and how you will go about securing these.

D. BUSINESS PLANNING

Establishing a Partnership School | Kura Hourua will require expertise in areas such as:

- financial management
- fundraising and development, and
- accounting.

How will you access this expertise?

Financial management and accounting will be handled by suitably qualified people. Fundraising and development will be handled by the teaching staff of Tauranga Alpha Academy.

Describe any partnership arrangements that you have in place or planned to support the business plan and the operation of the school.

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Evaluation

Reviewers will be looking for evidence that:

- the school has access to financial expertise, and
- partnerships are appropriate and support the statement of purpose and goals.