



## Education Report: Change of designation for Te Kura o Tuahiwi (3563)

<b>To:</b>	Hon Jan Tinetti, Minister of Education Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education (Māori Education)		
<b>Date:</b>	17 February 2023	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Security Level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>METIS No:</b>	1303348
<b>Drafter:</b>	Ruth Sullivan, Education Adviser	<b>Mobile:</b>	9(2)(a)
<b>Key Contact:</b>	Vanessa Goodwin, Manager Education	<b>Mobile:</b>	9(2)(a)
<b>Messaging seen by Communications team:</b>	No	<b>Round Robin:</b>	No

### Purpose

This report seeks your approval for a change of designation for Te Kura o Tuahiwi (3563) from an ordinary state school to a designated character school, under section 200(1)(a) of the Education and Training Act 2020.

In August 2022, you both gave agreement to consult with the boards of all state schools whose rolls might be affected by this change [METIS 1288025 refers]. This consultation has now been completed.

### Summary

1. Tuahiwi is a small settlement in the Waimakariri District, located between the towns of Rangiora and Kaiapoi. Te Kura o Tuahiwi (the kura) is a co-educational, decile 6, Year 1-8 full primary kura located in the Waimakariri District of North Canterbury. The kura has an Equity Index Number of 499 for 2023.
2. The kura roll has been steadily growing. The opening 2023 roll is expected to be 196 ākonga (based on the Provisional Roll Review Request submitted in October). The roll has grown by 28 ākonga since the beginning of 2022 and is predicted to increase to 200 ākonga by March 2023.
3. Of the kura roll, 75% of ākonga identify as Māori and 40% of the roll whakapapa to Ngāi Tūāhuriri and other hapū of Ngāi Tahu.

4. The kura has a very strong relationship with Ngāi Tūāhuriri and sees itself as a Pā kura that is committed to the revitalisation and retention of te reo Māori and the educational aspirations of Ngāi Tūāhuriri.
5. The kura offers Māori immersion at Level 1 to Level 3 and uses collaborative and Māori pedagogical practices throughout the kura.
6. In March 2022, the Board began the process for a change in designation from a mainstream school to a designated character school (kura).
7. This application meets the statutory criteria for a Designated Character School, and we are satisfied that:
  - the change would enable the kura to provide education in line with the local identity of Ngāi Tūāhuriri
  - it would allow whānau with connections to Ngāi Tūāhuriri from outside the immediate Tuahiwi area the opportunity to connect and continue to engage with their whakapapa.
8. Of the 33 schools consulted, seven responded in favour of the change and no feedback was provided from the other schools.
9. If you agree to the proposed change of designation, we recommend the change takes effect from Term 3, 2023.

## Recommended actions

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The Ministry of Education recommends you:

- a. **note** that in August 2022 you agreed to consult on the proposal to designate Te Kura o Tuahiwi as a designated character school [METIS 1288025 refers];
- b. **note** that the consultation under section 209 of the Education and Training Act 2020 has been completed, and there were no objections to the proposal;
- c. **agree** to change the designation of Te Kura o Tuahiwi to a designated character school under section 200(1)(a) of the Education and Training Act 2020, to take effect at the start of Term 3, 2023; and

☒ Agree / ☐ Disagree

- d. **note** that the Ministry proposes to approve a maximum roll of 250 ākonga.

And if you agree, you are asked to:

- e. **sign** the attached letters to the Presiding Member of the Board and local Members of Parliament (Annex 1) and *New Zealand Gazette* notice (Annex 2).

We also recommend that you:

- f. **agree** that this Education Report will be proactively released. Any information that might need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

☒ Proactively Release / ☐ Not Release



Nancy Bell  
Hautū | Deputy Secretary  
Te Mahau | Te Tai Runga

17/02/2023



Hon Jan Tinetti  
Minister of Education

25/02/2023



Hon Kelvin Davis  
Associate Minister of  
Education (Māori Education)

12/03/2023

## Background

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1. Te Kura o Tuahiwi (the kura) is a co-educational, decile 6, Year 1-8 full primary kura located in the Waimakariri District of North Canterbury. The kura has an Equity Index Number of 499 for 2023.
2. The kura offers Māori immersion at Level 1 to Level 3. The kura uses collaborative and Māori pedagogical practices throughout the kura.
3. The kura has a very strong relationship with Ngāi Tūāhuriri and is situated 100 metres from Tuahiwi Marae. Learning frequently takes place on the marae and ākonga often spend time learning from kaumatua and support mana whenua to prepare the marae for tangi or events.
4. Of the kura population, 75% of ākonga identify as Māori and 40% of the roll whakapapa to Ngāi Tūāhuriri and other hapū of Ngāi Tahu.
5. The kura roll has been steadily growing. The opening 2023 roll is 196 ākonga and is predicted and the kura is likely to have 200 ākonga by March 2023.
6. Due to roll growth, in 2021 the Ministry started discussions with the kura about how the growth can be managed. Both the development of an enrolment scheme and the option of applying to be a designated character school were discussed.
7. At the end of 2021 the kura began considering whether to remain a regular state school that offers a bilingual education option (as a special programme) or apply to become a Designated Character School specialising in providing Māori immersion at Level 1 to Level 3, which is what Te Kura o Tuahiwi are currently providing. The kura consulted with their community and Ngāi Tūāhuriri.
8. In March 2022 we received an application for a change in designation from the Board. Its character is uniquely Ngāi Tūāhuriri and is not a generic bilingual programme. Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga has provided a letter of support for this application.
9. The kura currently does not have an enrolment scheme. If the designated character status were to be declined, an enrolment scheme will need to be implemented with some urgency, in order to define a local home zone, manage the roll within the available capacity, prevent overcrowding, and to ensure there is fair and transparent access to bilingual provision offered by the kura through implementation of special programmes for Māori immersion.
10. Becoming a designated character school would enable Te Kura o Tuahiwi to provide education in line with their proposed designated character. This would allow whānau, with connections to Ngāi Tūāhuriri from outside the immediate Tuahiwi area, the opportunity to connect and continue to engage with their whakapapa. As a designated character school, a maximum roll would be set, and the kura would need to manage the roll within that approved number.

## Proposal to redesignate as a designated character school

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11. We have received a proposal from Te Kura o Tuahiwi Board to change from a regular state school to a designated character state school.

12. For you to designate a state school as a designated character school, the kura must meet the requirements in section 204(3) of the Act. These are the same as for establishing a new designated character school. The three key requirements are:
- the kura will have a character that is in some specific way different from the character of ordinary state schools; and
  - it is desirable for ākonga (whose whanau want them to do so) to get such an education; and
  - ākonga at the kura will get education of a kind that differs significantly from the education they would receive at an ordinary state school.

**Meeting the designated character requirements:**

*Different character*

13. The curriculum reflects the mātauranga of their hapū, Ngāi Tūāhuriri.
14. Te Kura o Tuahiwi is located within 100 metres of the Tuahiwi Marae and the connection between the two is undeniable, authentic and lived. This is where the first kura was established (160 years ago) named Tuahiwi Native School. The relationship between the kura and the marae helps ākonga to understand who they are and where they are from, strengthening tamaiti identity. Tamaiti learn and live the education and cultural aspirations of their hapū.
15. The kura reflects Ngāi Tūāhuriri's aims and aspirations to revitalise Māori language, culture, and identity for ākonga in their own home area. Tūāhuriritanga is the essence of the kura values and the backbone of their curriculum.
16. Te reo and Tikanga Māori is a natural part of the kura, underpinning everything the kura does, supporting the Ngāi Tahu Reo strategy 2021, Kōtahi Mano Kaika, Kōtahi Mano Wawata; a thousand homes achieving a thousand aspirations; acknowledging several generations of language loss and cultural repression as an impact of colonisation.
17. Aroha ki te tangata; te Tuahiwi ki te whai ao is about respecting everyone and the kura being the connector from the ridge (village) to the wider world. This whakatauki, gifted to and passed down through generations to the kura and community by an ancestor of Ngāi Tūāhuriri reflects Te Kura o Tuahiwi Ūkaipō value, lived through the way the kura tends to the needs of not only the ākonga, but also in partnership with whānau and the world around them, creating life-long connections with their kura and their whānau. Te Kura o Tuahiwi work in partnership with the Rūnanga so that ākonga remain connected to their whakapapa through iwi and hapū leaders.

*Desirability for ākonga and whānau*

18. Whanau are keen to enrol their children in Te Kura o Tuahiwi and are prepared to withdraw their children from their current school to attend this kura if it becomes a designated character school.

*Different education*

19. The proposed character presented by Te Kura o Tuahiwi provides a point of difference to an ordinary state school. The values and principles make it a desirable option for whānau.

20. The designated character for the kura includes an approach to teaching and learning where Kura o Tuahiwi has spent many years living and breathing their kura ūara, through effective learning pedagogy. The kur connects ākonga to the principles of manaakitanga, whanaungatanga, ūkaipōtanga, rangatiratanga, kaitiakitanga and puāwaitanga to provide holistic achievement and development for Ngāi Tūāhuriri by Ngāi Tūāhuriri.
21. The curriculum, teaching and learning practices outlined in the application clearly reflect the vision and philosophy of the designated character.
22. The 2019 Education Review Office (ERO) report noted that the kura is effectively supporting most target groups of ākonga to achieve the kura valued equity and excellence outcomes. The report also notes that almost all ākonga are achieving at or above curriculum expectations.
23. The Ministry considers that the application has provided sufficient evidence that the requirements of the Education and Training Act 2020 (the Act) regarding a Designated Character School have been met.

### Impact on the schooling network

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24. Tuahiwi is a small settlement in the Waimakariri District, located between the towns of Rangiora and Kaiapoi. It is expected that the majority of ākonga drawn to the kura will either live in Tuahiwi or one of these towns.
25. The only other provider of a bilingual special programme in the Waimakariri district is Rangiora Borough School, which offers level 2 Māori immersion as a special programme. There are no providers of bilingual or Māori immersion programmes in the Hurunui District.
26. Residential growth is underway in both Kaiapoi and Rangiora. There are currently roll pressures at schools in Kaiapoi, with plans in place for additional space at these schools in the future. Planning is in place for anticipated future roll growth in the primary education network in Rangiora.
27. Te Kura o Tuahiwi is the only local kura without an enrolment scheme. The local un-zoned area is bordered by the home zones of Woodend School, Southbrook School, Ōhoka School, Kaiapoi Borough School, and Kaiapoi North School. Each of these schools except for Southbrook School, are expected to experience roll pressure due to in-zone growth. Southbrook School is well placed to meet increased demand.
28. If designated character status is approved for Te Kura o Tuahiwi, changes will need to be made to the enrolment scheme for at least one of the neighbouring schools to ensure there is a local schooling option for any ākonga in Tuahiwi whose parents do not accept the designated character of Te Kura o Tuahiwi.
29. While Southbrook School would have the capacity to accommodate ākonga who do not choose to attend Te Kura o Tuahiwi, it may be appropriate to include some of the Tuahiwi area in the home zone of another neighbouring school. This will require engagement with local schools and public consultation to determine the appropriate zoning for this area.
30. It is considered that the redesignation of Te Kura o Tuahiwi would have a beneficial impact on the local network of schools, which are experiencing roll pressure, and for which further local growth is expected.

## Te Tiriti o Waitangi

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31. The Government has an enduring focus on improving education outcomes for Māori learners and giving effect to the Te Tiriti o Waitangi and its principles. The Act reflects this. Section 4(d) states that one of the purposes of the Act is “to establish and regulate an education system that honours Te Tiriti o Waitangi and supports Māori-Crown relationships”.
32. Changing the kura designation would align with the Crown’s responsibilities under the Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and the Ministry’s goals to grow te reo Māori immersion in the schooling network.
33. This proposal supports enhancing Māori participation in education, and Māori achieving success as Māori within a unique environment. Their designated character places an importance on an inclusive culture (Ngāi Tūāhuritanga), acknowledges the whole community and encourages active and life-long learning for all.

## Financial implications

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34. As Te Kura o Tuahiwi is already an established kura, there would be limited financial implications as a result of the redesignation.
35. Any financial implications would be managed as per roll growth indicators as the roll grows towards the suggested maximum roll growth capacity of 250 students. Based on the suggested maximum roll of 250 students the estimated total cost to the Crown would be \$231,000 (GST inclusive) per annum.
36. The designation would allow for a total of 16.2 FTTE in staffing if the roll increased to 250 students.

## Property implications

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37. The kura is currently situated on a relatively narrow and long site with a shared private drive to the North and Māori Reserve Land (currently leased back to the local council) to the South. There is also an established early childhood centre and schoolhouse along the front of the site, leaving no frontage for the kura from the street. This restricts access and the ability to grow significantly. Most buildings are located within the central third of the site and the only open space at the back.
38. The field has been identified as essential for the service and defined as a no-build zone by the Ministry’s Design Assurance team. The existing buildings are a combination of small, grouped teaching blocks—mostly Canterbury Education Board Unit System (CEBUS) style with two to three teaching spaces within each.
39. There are two roll growth projects planned for the short to medium term to increase the teaching space count from eight to ten. Construction on the first two teaching spaces is due to begin soon. Construction for the second increase to 14 is expected to commence in the fourth quarter of 2024.
40. A Master Plan has been developed and is based on a potential maximum roll of 280 ākonga with consideration of the kura offering puna reo kōhungahunga provision – a possible long-term aspiration of whānau. Note that the initial maximum roll is proposed to be 250, with increases beyond this subject to formal application/approval processes.
41. The kura proposes to continue to operate from this site.

## Transport implications

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42. The Ministry currently funds 44 ākonga with a conveyance allowance to assist with travel costs to attend Te Kura o Tuahiwi. This is based on our eligibility criteria that requires ākonga to be enrolled at the closest school and be more than 3.2 kms from home to school. There are no suitable public transport options within 2.4 kms of the kura.
43. It is likely that a large proportion of future enrolments will be drawn from Kaiapoi and Rangiora. These ākonga are likely to be eligible for the conveyance allowance. Given the proposed opening 2023 roll of 196 ākonga and the proposed maximum roll of 250 ākonga, the number of ākonga receiving conveyance allowance is likely to increase to around 66.
44. Due to the increased roll, any property development should include improved and larger safe areas for school buses and car parking for caregivers at drop off and pick up times at the kura.
45. School Transport Assistance will be provided for ākonga that are eligible for this support.

## Consultation

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46. Section 209 of the Act requires you to consult the boards of all state schools whose rolls might be affected before deciding whether to change the designation of an existing state school.
47. The Ministry has undertaken this consultation on your behalf. There were 33 schools consulted, and responses were received from Kaiapoi North School, Kaiapoi Borough School, Kaiapoi High School, Woodend School, Southbrook School, Swannanoa School, and Rangiora High School.
48. All schools that supplied feedback are in favour of the change in designation. Some of the schools commented that they had assumed that Te Kura o Tuahiwi was already a designated character school with an enrolment scheme and order of priority.

## Risks and Mitigations

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49. There are minimal risks in designating Te Kura o Tuahiwi as a designated character school.
50. Currently Te Kura o Tuahiwi does not have an enrolment zone. The undesignated zone surrounding Te Kura o Tuahiwi will be absorbed by one of the neighbouring schools. If the application for Te Kura o Tuahiwi is successful, each of these schools will be consulted regarding changes to local school zoning.
51. Our data shows that of the four local schools (Kaiapoi Borough School, Kaiapoi North School, Woodend School, and Southbrook School) only Southbrook School is in a position to absorb this area into their zone as the other three are currently experiencing roll growth and will require additional classroom spaces in the short to medium term in order to meet increased local demand due to ongoing residential development in the area.



52. If the change of designation for Te Kura o Tuahiwi is successful, the designation would need to be delayed until the start of Term 3 2023. This will allow time for the Ministry to undertake public consultation in regards redistribution of the un-zoned area surrounding Te Kura o Tuahiwi, to ensure that ākonga with whanau who do not subscribe to the character of Te Kura o Tuahiwi are able to access a local state school.
53. Any ākonga living in Tuahiwi with whanau who do not subscribe to the character, will be within the home zone of a local state school once the new boundaries have been confirmed.

## Conclusion

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54. The Ministry recommends you approve the proposed change of designation for Te Kura o Tuahiwi because:
- the proposed change in designation meets the requirements of the Act
  - the proposed change would enhance Māori immersion provision for Ngāi Tuahuriri and Ngāi Tahu in the Waimakariri area
  - the proposed change is supported by hāpu and iwi
  - the consultation indicates local support for the proposed change to the kura.

## Next Steps

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55. If you approve this application, the kura will operate as a designated character school from Term 3, 2023 for ākonga in Year 1-8.
56. You are asked to sign the attached letters to the Presiding Member of the Board and local Members of Parliament and *New Zealand Gazette* notice and agree to the release of the attached media statement.
57. The Ministry will arrange to deliver the letter to the Presiding Member of the Board and publish the *New Zealand Gazette* notice.

## Proactive Release

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58. We recommend that this Education Report be proactively released. Any information that might need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

## Annexes

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- Annex 1: Letters to the Presiding Member of the Board and Local Members of Parliament
- Annex 2: *New Zealand Gazette* notice

Proactively Released

# Hon Kelvin Davis

MP for Te Tai Tokerau

Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti

Minister for Children

Minister of Corrections

Associate Minister of Education (Māori Education)



Rebecca Stevens  
Presiding Member  
Te Kura o Tuahiwi Board  
206 Tuahiwi Road  
RD1  
Kaiapoi 7691

Tēnā koe Rebecca

I am pleased to advise that I have approved your application to redesignate Te Kura o Tuahiwi (3563) to a designated character school under section 200(1)(a) of the Education and Training Act 2020. The kura will operate under its new designation from Term 3, 2023.

A notice giving effect to my decision will be published in the *New Zealand Gazette*.

The Ministry of Education has indicated it will likely approve a maximum roll of 250 ākonga. If, in the future, the kura wishes to increase this figure then it will need to follow a process with the Ministry of Education.

I wish to acknowledge the way that you have worked with the Ministry of Education during this process, and I look forward to hearing of the progress of Te Kura o Tuahiwi as a designated character school.

If you have any further questions or queries, please contact Ruth Sullivan in the Ministry's Christchurch office at [ruth.sullivan@education.govt.nz](mailto:ruth.sullivan@education.govt.nz).

Heio anō

Hon Kelvin Davis  
**Associate Minister of Education**  
**(Māori Education)**

cc Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education (School Operations)  
Coralanne Child, Director of Education for Canterbury

# Hon Kelvin Davis

MP for Te Tai Tokerau

Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti

Minister for Children

Minister of Corrections

Associate Minister of Education (Māori Education)



Rino Tirikatene  
Member of Parliament for Te Tai Tonga  
Parliament Buildings  
WELLINGTON

Tēnā koe Rino

I have received an application from the Board of Te Kura o Tuahiwi to redesignate as a designated character school.

I have consulted with the boards of all state schools whose rolls might be affected by this change.

After considering all the information provided to me, I have decided to redesignate the kura with effect from Term 3, 2023. A notice giving effect to my decision will be published in the *New Zealand Gazette*.

Heoi anō

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Kelvin Davis'.

Hon Kelvin Davis  
**Associate Minister of Education**  
**(Māori Education)**

# Hon Kelvin Davis

MP for Te Tai Tokerau

Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti

Minister for Children

Minister of Corrections

Associate Minister of Education (Māori Education)



Matt Doocey  
Member of Parliament for Waimakariri  
Parliament Buildings  
WELLINGTON

Tēnā koe Matt Doocey

I have received an application from the Board of Te Kura o Tuahiwi to redesignate as a designated character school.

I have consulted with the boards of all state schools whose rolls might be affected by this change.

After considering all the information provided to me, I have decided to redesignate the kura with effect from Term 3, 2023. A notice giving effect to my decision will be published in the *New Zealand Gazette*.

Heoi anō

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Kelvin Davis'.

Hon Kelvin Davis  
**Associate Minister of Education**  
**(Māori Education)**

Proactively Released

# Hon Kelvin Davis

MP for Te Tai Tokerau

Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti

Minister for Children

Minister of Corrections

Associate Minister of Education (Māori Education)



## CHANGE OF DESIGNATION OF TE KURA O TUAHIWI (3563) (Kaiapoi, Waimakariri)

Under sections 200, 204 and 205 of the Education and Training Act 2020, I hereby redesignate Te Kura o Tuahiwi (3563) as a designated character school. This designation will take effect from Term 3, 2023.

Te Kura o Tuahiwi will operate in accordance with section 204 of the Education and Training Act 2020. The designated character of the kura is:

*Te Kura o Tuahiwi reflects the aims of Ngāi Tūāhuriri to revitalise Te Reo Māori, culture and identity for ākonga in their own home area.*

*Te Kura o Tuahiwi tends to the needs of not only the ākonga, but also in partnership with whānau and the world around them, creating life-long connections with their kura and their whānau.*

The constitution of Te Kura o Tuahiwi Board shall not be changed by this notice.

Dated at Wellington this 12 day of March 2023.

Hon Kelvin Davis

**Associate Minister of Education  
(Māori Education)**