

Education Report: Application for a change of class for Te Kura o Te Kao (1)

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Copy:	Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education		
Date:	15 January 2020	Priority:	High
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1216530
Drafter:	Mark Scott	DDI:	s 9(2)(a)
Key Contact:	Hira Gage, Director Education Tai Tokerau	Mobile:	
Messaging seen by Communications team:	N/A	Round Robin:	No



Purpose of Report

This report asks you to agree to a proposal by the Te Kura o Te Kao Board of Trustees to change the class of the kura, under section 153 of the Education Act 1989 (the Act), from a Year 1 – 8 primary school to a Year 1-10 composite school in 2020.

You agreed to consultation about this proposal, under section 157 of the Act, on 20 November 2019 [METIS 1191071 refers]. We have completed this consultation on your behalf.

We recommend you agree to this change.

The application submitted ultimately envisages for a change of class to Year 1-13 school. This is not being proposed at this time.

Summary

- 1 Te Kura o Te Kao (formerly Te Kao School) is a decile 2, co-educational Year 1-8, dedicated Māori medium kura in Te Kao, Tai Tokerau. The majority of students are of Māori heritage from the local Te Aupōuri tribe. The school roll has been stable over the last five years ranging from 32 to 38 students. Its March 2019 actual roll was 37 students. Its July 2019 roll was 32 students.
- 2 In 2018 the kura became a designated character school, kura-ā-iwi, having been accepted for membership of Ngā Kura Ā Iwi o Aotearoa (NKAI).
- 3 Through attendance at national kura-ā-iwi conferences and hui over a number of years, the kura staff became aware of the benefits of kura-ā-iwi retaining their students over their 13 years of schooling. This resulted in a formal approach to the board to consider a change of class.

- 4 The Far North region has two composite kura kaupapa Māori, one secondary school, one area school and a composite state integrated school, all a two hour return commute from Te Kao.
- 5 The board has engaged with staff and parents, whānau and the tribal governance entity, Te Rūnanga Nui o Te Aupōuri. The Tumuaki has also been in communication with their neighbouring schools, including discussions concerning a united secondary schooling plan for Te Hāpua School, Waiharara School and Ngātaki School.
- 6 The application initially proposes a change from a Year 1-8 school to a Year 1-10 school in 2020. The application ultimately envisages a change of class to a Year 1-13 school.
- 7 We have consulted with the board and with the boards of all state schools whose rolls might be affected by the proposed change. No objections have been received.
- 8 The change would result in approximately five Year 9 students remaining at Te Kura o Te Kao each year, progressing through the subsequent year level(s).
- 9 The kura has a 2.54 Full Time Teacher Equivalent entitlement. While primary teaching staff can teach to Year 10, higher year levels would require secondary teachers or upskilling of current staff.
- 10 The current tumuaki is providing strong leadership and ERO's 2015 review noted the kura "continues to provide good quality education".
- 11 The kura has one surplus teaching space, which if utilised would provide the area required for roll growth to support a change from a Year 1-8 school to a Year 1-10 school.
- 12 If the change is approved, no new teachers would need to be engaged, and the classroom space is available. In this regard there are no practical issues with implementing this change from Term 3, 2020.
- 13 Approving the proposal would support *Maihi Karauna*, the recently announced Māori language strategy, foster increased participation and success for Māori students through the advancement of Māori education initiatives, and aligns with *Ka Hikitia*. It also aligns with the national network plan to support Māori medium education in the network.

Recommended actions

We recommend that you:

- a) **agree** that, under section 153(1) of the Education Act 1989, Te Kura o Te Kao change its class from a Year 1-8 primary school to a Year 1-10 composite school with effect from 20 July 2020 (start of Term 3). Legislation requires that there is a term between your decision and its implementation;

Agree / Disagree

- b) **agree** that this change be phased in, with the school providing Year 1 to 9 in 2020 and Year 1-10 in 2021;

Agree / Disagree

- c) **sign** the attached letter to the board chair and the local Members of Parliament informing them of your decision;

- d) **sign** the attached *New Zealand Gazette* notice;

- e) **agree** that this report be proactively released in line with your expectations. Any information that might need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Release / Not release


Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support

14/1/2020


Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

28/1/20

Background

1. Te Kura o Te Kao is a decile 2 co-educational Year 1-8 full primary school in the Far North, 66 km north of Kaitiaki. Provision is at Level 1 Māori immersion. All students are of Māori heritage, the majority identifying with the local iwi of Te Aupōuri.
2. The kura is in a small rural community, and is the second most northern school in New Zealand. The Te Kao community has long-standing intergenerational connections with the kura, and students benefit from this extended whānau support.
3. In 2018 the kura became a designated character school. This followed an eight year staggered transition from English medium to Māori medium education. The transition was initiated following a demand for Māori medium instruction and subsequently an application to Ngā Kura Ā Iwi o Aotearoa (NKAI) to join the national NKAI collective of tribal designated character schools
4. The designated character of Te Kura o Te Kao is recorded as:
“Te Kura o Te Kao will function as a learning centre that embraces Te Aupōuritanga with a unique environment that acknowledges the whole community and encourages active and life-long learning for all.”
5. Through attendance at national kura-ā-iwi conferences and hui over a number of years, the kura staff became aware of the benefits of kura-ā-iwi retaining their students over their 13 years of schooling. This resulted in a formal approach to the board to consider a change of class, which the board has agreed to seek.

Application

6. The Board has applied for a change of class from a Year 1-8 primary school to a Year 1-10 composite school in 2020. The application ultimately envisages a Year 1-13 school. It intends to apply separately for higher year levels in due course.
7. The proposed rolls (based on ultimately becoming a Year 1-13 school) to 2022 are set out in the table below:

Table 1: Projected Te Kura o Te Kao roll levels 2019 to 2022

Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
2019	1	5	8	3	2	5	5	5					
2020	4	1	5	8	3	2	5	5	5				
2021	4	4	1	5	8	3	2	5	5	5			
2022	3	4	4	1	5	8	3	2	5	5	5		

8. However consultation by the board to date has only been completed for a change of class from a Year 1-8 to a Year 1-10 school (see below).

Board consultation

9. The board held whānau consultation hui in 2018 and 2019, with the majority supporting the proposal for a change of class from Years 1-8 to Years 1-10. Responses in 2018 were 80 percent in favour and 20 percent undecided.

10. During 2018 and 2019 the tumuaki also discussed the proposal with the wider community. The neighbouring schools support the change, as do Te Rūnanga Nui o Te Aupōuri and the local kōhanga reo.
11. The kura's neighbouring schools, Ngātaki School and Te Hāpua School, support the application. These two schools operate under a combined board and one principal. The combined board is also applying for a change of class for Ngātaki School to become a Year 1-10 composite school.
12. The board advises it also has the support from other kura-ā-iwi, both of the Tai Tokerau and nationally.

Statutory consultation

13. You agreed to consultation about the proposed change, under section 157 of the Act, on 20 November 2019 [METIS 1191071 refers]. We have completed this consultation on your behalf.
14. We consulted with the following schools in addition to Ngātaki School and Te Hapua School, being those schools whose rolls might be affected by the proposed change:
 - Te Rangi Āniwaniwa (1147)
 - TKKM o Pukemiro (3114)
 - Kaitaia College (3).
15. No comments have been received.

Education at the Kura

Education Review Office report

16. The 2013 Education Review Office (ERO) report noted good governance and leadership, strong whānau support and a positive school tone. Its 2015 report notes that these areas of good school performance continue to be noteworthy

“Te Kao School's curriculum appropriately promotes and supports student learning. It places strong emphasis on literacy and mathematics, and providing a localised curriculum. It increasingly provides opportunities for learning through information and communication technologies (ICT). Local kaumatua and kaiarahi i te reo support tamariki by speaking te reo Māori. Students participate in a range of learning opportunities including sporting, cultural and environmental education opportunities.

Settled learning environments promote and support student learning. Students report that they feel valued and safe. They benefit from good tuakana/teina relationships with each other and their positive interactions with teachers. Students' social and emotional competence is well supported.

Te Kao School very effectively promotes educational success for Māori, as tamariki of Te Aupouri. All students identify as Māori. Students are deeply immersed in te reo me ōna tikanga Māori that affirms their language, culture and identity and strongly reinforces

Te Aupouritanga. They actively participate as leaders in school hui, events at the marae and pōwhiri.

Te Kao School is well placed to sustain and improve its performance. The board is made up of a mix of experienced and new trustees. They are representative of the school community and have identified that ongoing training to support their governance role is useful.

Teachers participate in professional learning and development and access both Māori and English medium facilitators. In 2014, teachers worked collaboratively with neighbouring schools, enabling them to build relationships and professional capability, and to share expertise.

Staff are committed to teaching te reo Māori to parents and whānau to enable them to support their tamariki at home. Regular opportunities include after school classes and Whānau Reo within the home environment."

17. The kura is on a three year review cycle.

The board's direction for education

18. The strengthening of the values and knowledge of Te Aupōuri tamariki was integral to the kura's initial transition to become a dedicated Māori medium setting and therefore its designated character concerning Te Aupōuritanga:

"Te Kura o Te Kao will function as a learning centre that embraces Te Aupōuritanga with a unique environment that acknowledges the whole community and encourages active and life-long learning for all."

19. Te Aupōuritanga is easily described in terms of descendants of Te Aupōuri living, growing and developing as Te Aupōuri. This aligns to the nationally recognised success levers regarding "culture, language and identity".
20. Although the kura and whānau acknowledge transitions across educational pathways involve navigating both advantages and disadvantages, a strong desire has been expressed by the kura to best provide an unbroken localised schooling pathway for the descendants of Te Aupōuri.
21. The board is aware that should it pursue an application to extend its delivery to years 11 to 13, the kura would need to become accredited to teach NCEA by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority, or gain agreement from another kura for students to use their school. The phased implementation suggested by the board would provide time for this to be sought.

Education in the local area

22. The Far North region has two composite kura kaupapa Māori, one secondary school, one area school and a composite state integrated school, all a daily two hour return commute from Te Kao.
23. Te Kura o Te Kao is the only school with a localised Te Aupōuri designated character.

24. All primary schools in the area are Years 1-8 full primary schools. The other schools are set out in the table below:

Table 2: Primary schools in the vicinity of Te Kura o Te Kao

School	March 2019 Roll	Distance from Te Kao
Te Hāpua School	26	36 km (40 min)
Ngātaki School	28	14 km (12 min)
Pukenui School (Kaitaia)	81	26 km (24 min)
Waiharara School	21	41 km (34 min)

25. All schools are on a three year ERO review cycle.
26. There are two secondary schools in the area that support the localised Te Aupōuri designation of Te Kura o Te Kao. The provision at these secondary schools is a shared designated character with the other four tribes of the Far North - Ngāti Kahu, Te Rarawa, Ngāi Takoto and Ngāti Kurī. Both secondary schools are two hour commutes from Te Kao.

Financial implications

27. The estimated operational cost of retaining students at Years 9 - 10 instead of them attending Kaitaia College are based on Māori Language Resourcing at Level 1 for five students per year level.
28. The estimated cost to the Crown is \$157,285 (excl GST) for the first year and \$121,340 (excl GST) for subsequent years. This is primarily due to an increase in staffing entitlement at Te Kura o Te Kao of 1.8 FTTE with only a 0.5 FTTE corresponding reduction at Kaitaia College.

Staffing

29. The kura currently has a 2.54 Full Time Teacher Equivalent entitlement.
30. The kura has whānau who are currently teaching in secondary learning environments and plan to return to teach at the wharekura if this proposal is approved. Two others are about to pursue their Bachelor of Teaching with the support of the board and kura. Upon completion they wish to return to the kura to teach.

Property and transport implications

31. There is one surplus teaching space that, if utilised, would provide the area required to support a change of class to Years 1 - 10.
32. No changes to existing transport arrangements are necessary.

Next steps

33. If you agree, please sign the attached notice for the *New Zealand Gazette* giving effect to your decision.

34. Please also sign the attached letters to the Te Kura o Te Kao board chairperson (Annex 2) and local Members of Parliament (Annex 3).
35. We will support the board as necessary to implement this change. The proposal would also support *Maihi Karauna*, the recently announced Māori language strategy, foster increased participation and success for Māori students through the advancement of Māori education initiatives, and aligns with *Ka Hikitia*. It also aligns with the national network plan to support Māori medium education in the network.

Proactive release

36. It is intended that this Education Report be proactively released in line with your expectations that information be released as soon as possible. Any information that might need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Annexes

- Annex 1: Notice for the *New Zealand Gazette*
- Annex 2: Letter to Board Chair
- Annex 3: Letters to local Members of Parliament

Annex 1: Notice for the *New Zealand Gazette*

Proactively Released

Hon Chris Hipkins

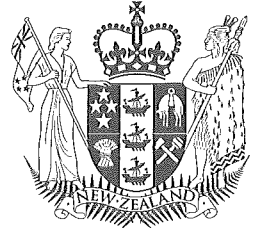
MP for Rimutaka

Minister of Education

Minister of State Services

Leader of the House

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services



Change of class for Te Kura o Te Kao, Te Kao, Northland (1)

Under sections 153(1) and 153(1A) of the Education Act 1989, I declare that Te Kura o Te Kao will become a Year 1 – 10 composite school on 20 July 2020 and cease to be a primary school on that day.

The change will be phased in as follows:

2020: Year 1 to Year 9

2021: Year 1 to Year 10.

Dated at Wellington this 28th day of January 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CH'.

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

Annex 2: Letter to Board Chair

Proactively Released

Hon Chris Hipkins

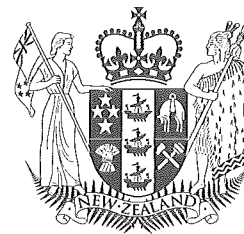
MP for Rimutaka

Minister of Education

Minister of State Services

Leader of the House

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services



Mr Whare Christie
Chairperson
Te Kura o Te Kao Board of Trustees
6603 Far North Road
R D 4
KAITAIA 0484

Dear Whare

Further to my letter of 20 November 2019 I am writing to you regarding your board's application to change the class of Te Kura o Te Kao from Year 1 - 8 primary school to a Year 1 - 10 composite school.

The Ministry of Education has consulted on my behalf with the boards of all schools whose rolls might be affected by this change.

Having considered all the information provided to me I have decided to change the class of Te Kura o Te Kao under sections 153(1) and 153(1A) of the Education Act 1989 to become a Year 1 – 10 composite school.

This change will be notified in the *New Zealand Gazette* and will take effect from 20 July 2020, and will be phased in as follows:

2020: Year 1 to Year 9.
2021: Year 1 to Year 10.

The Ministry of Education Senior Advisor Māori Medium, Mark Scott, will be in contact with you regarding the process from here.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CH'.

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

Annex 2: Letters to local MPs

Proactively Released

Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Rimutaka

Minister of Education

Minister of State Services

Leader of the House

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services



Hon Kelvin Davis
MP for Te Tai Tokerau
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON 6160

Dear Kelvin

I am writing to let you know that I have received an application from the board of trustees of Te Kura o Te Kao in Northland for a change of class from a primary school to a composite school.

Under sections 153 (1) and 153 (1A) of the Education Act 1989, I have decided that Te Kura o Te Kao will become a Year 1 – 10 composite school. This change will be notified in the *New Zealand Gazette* and take effect from 28 April 2020. The change will be phased in as follows

2020: Year 1 to Year 9.

2021: Year 1 to Year 10.

I consider this change will assist local students who so choose to continue their Māori medium education beyond Year 8.

Yours sincerely

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Rimutaka

Minister of Education

Minister of State Services

Leader of the House

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services



Matt King
MP for Northland
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON 6160

Dear Mr King

I am writing to let you know that I have received an application from the board of trustees of Te Kura o Te Kao in Northland for a change of class from a primary school to a composite school.

Under sections 153 (1) and 153 (1A) of the Education Act 1989, I have decided that Te Kura o Te Kao will become a Year 1 – 10 composite school. This change will be notified in the *New Zealand Gazette* and take effect from 28 April 2020. The change will be phased in as follows

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Yours sincerely

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education