



He Whānau Manaaki o Tararua
Free Kindergarten Association Incorporated

Date Effective: August 2020

Review Date: August 2022

Celebrations and Cultural Practices

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| Responsible to: | Chief Executive Officer, Senior Teachers |
| Applies to: | Head Teachers and Teachers |
| Purpose: | To provide guidelines so that programmes and resources take account of the values and customs of the children attending and are -inclusive of ethnic, cultural, social and individual practices. |
| References: | • Education (Early Childhood Centres) Regulations 2008 |

Policy

1. Programmes will:
 - acknowledge and value Te Tiriti o Waitangi;
 - reflect the diversity of the kindergarten community;
 - provide opportunities to learn about and respect the cultures which make up the society of Aotearoa; and
 - be responsive to the significant cultural events/festivals of the kindergarten community.
2. No child will be excluded and no teacher may ask that a child be kept away from kindergarten because their family's beliefs differ from those of the teacher(s) or other families in the kindergarten. This may require negotiation with the family concerned to reach a shared understanding. Where help is required to reach a shared understanding, teachers should contact WMK.

Procedures

- 1 Teachers will develop written procedures outlining how significant celebrations and cultural occasions shall be acknowledged.
- 2 The teaching team will be familiar with, and be willing to share with children, the historic aspects of national festivals and celebrations of significance in Aotearoa, New Zealand, such as Waitangi Day, Easter, ANZAC Day, Queens Birthday, Matariki, Labour Day, Christmas, New Year and Provincial Anniversaries.
- 3 If food is to be used as part of the celebrations appropriate health and hygiene practices will be adhered to regarding the serving of this food. Food supplied by parents/whānau will be recorded at a general level (e.g. fairy bread, muffins, crackers and cheese).
- 4 Where parents/whānau have been invited to share food teachers will respond sensitively to their choices.
- 5 The needs of each enrolled child will be taken into account. For example, if some families do not celebrate Christmas, details of the planned programme will be shared with them and the reasons for it explained. This will enable them to decide whether or not they wish their child to participate in that part of the programme. The same rationale applies to important festivals such as Chinese New Year, Ramadan, Diwali and Jewish New Year.
- 6 Alternative activities must be provided by the kindergarten for children who are not participating in a particular event such as a birthday celebration.
- 7 Every kindergarten will develop their own procedure in accordance with the above policy that documents their processes around children's birthday/last day celebrations.