



MOTUEKA STEINER SCHOOL

STRATEGIC GOALS 2024 – 2026

Incorporating the National Education and Learning Priorities (NELPS)ⁱ

Vision:

Our highest endeavour must be to develop free human beings who are able to impart purpose and direction to their lives. (Rudolf Steiner)

Mission:

The Motueka Steiner School will inspire a joy of learning, maximising our unique farm environment where students develop their capacity as clear and creative individuals.

Values:

Manaakitanga - *Embrace yourself, others, the land, and the community.*

Ako - *Teach and learn together, embracing Steiner Education.*

Whanaungatanga - *Build positive relationships.*

Kaitiakitanga - *Accept guardianship of the environment.*

Context Statement:

The Motueka Steiner School is a Steiner/Waldorf school in a farm setting in which Rudolf Steiner's art of education is practised with a special emphasis on respecting nature and caring practically for the environment. Anthroposophy, as a world conception, its description of the universe and the human being is the basis of the art of education and of all the endeavours of the school. The Special Character of the School is based on the ideals and practices of education described by Rudolf Steiner, Waldorf teachers, and other compatible pedagogical approaches and their on-going development and adaptation to the unique context of Aotearoa, New Zealand today.

Complementing the Anthroposophical underpinnings of its Special Character, the school campus is situated alongside a productive farm with mountains to the west and the sea to the east. The farm is managed by the Motueka Rudolf Steiner School Trust. The curriculum is delivered in the context of the farm setting and incorporates outside classrooms and many nature - and farm-based activities, building a bridge between the natural world and the built environment.

Founded in 1984, the Motueka Steiner School integrated into the state system in 2021 and is the only Steiner school in the northern South Island. It embraces the unique context of the Tasman District with its mana whenua in Aotearoa New Zealand. It is part of a network of 12 Steiner Schools throughout New Zealand. The special character of the school is supported by The Proprietors' Trust. Steiner Education Aotearoa New Zealand (SEANZ) acts as an umbrella organisation providing support for the implementation of Steiner Education in New Zealand.

School Community:

The health and well-being of our school is supported by a strong and engaged community that connects students, parents, and teachers. Current enrolments of 99 (with a role cap of 100 students) reflects the strong desire for Steiner Education in the region. Our current role is made up of many families who have moved to the Motueka area specifically to access Steiner Education for their tamariki, along with students who were previously enrolled at the private Motueka Rudolf Steiner School and the Motueka Steiner Kindergarten. There are also a smaller number of students who have been home-schooled or attended other schools prior to enrolment.

There is a diverse community who are willing to share their strengths to support the school. Cultural diversity is recognised and celebrated in all aspects of the school curriculum as teachers strive to deliver a Steiner Curriculum embracing our local context and time. The pioneering spirit of the handful of families who turned their dreams of a Steiner school into reality is honoured by continuing to embrace collaboration, ensuring the culture of striving, and creating is still alive and well.

The school retains strong links with the Motueka Steiner Kindergarten. Teachers work together as a College of Teachers to work collegially and in a spiritual way, to share responsibility for maintaining the special character of the school and the anthroposophical impulse which is inherent in all aspects of school life. School and Kindergarten leadership are working together to develop shared processes and understandings.

Curriculum Principles:

The principles of the New Zealand Steiner Curriculum embody what is held to be important in a Steiner/Waldorf School Curriculum:

- Education of the whole child
- An education of head, heart, and hands
- Curriculum and pedagogy based on anthroposophical child development

The following principles provide the foundations of curriculum decision making as outlined in the New Zealand Curriculum:

- High Expectations – a culture of collaboration and learning
- Treaty of Waitangi – partnership, protection, participation
- Cultural diversity – encouraged and celebrated
- Coherence – mapping our curriculum through an integrated and inquiry approach
- Future focus – embrace learning for and about the future.

Strategic Aim # 1 Strengthen our Special Character <i>The Motueka Steiner school will, in accordance with its Special Character, provide all children with the opportunity to participate in learning experiences that are in harmony with the developmental needs of each child.</i>		
2024	2025	2026
Review our main lessons – with particular focus on Cultural Enrichment and Diversity.	Develop our movement and speech component in morning circle time to reflect Te Ao Māori.	Update the LS Curriculum document and align it with the New Zealand Curriculum refresh documents, our Steiner Waldorf Curriculum and He Reo Pūāwai.
Provide opportunities for teacher development in our Special Character pedagogy.	Investigate and develop Special Character therapeutic intervention.	Establish availability of Steiner therapeutic intervention opportunities.
Investigate opportunities for parent enrichment which bridges life for our ākonga between home and school.	Develop a sustainable annual parent enrichment programme which articulates our Special Character and the developmental stages ākonga progress through, the way in which the curriculum supports this, and how home can work in partnership with the school.	Establish a regular annual parent enrichment programme.
Strategic Aim # 2 Cultural Responsiveness <i>The Motueka Steiner School will provide a learning environment that is relevant and effective for learners by drawing on ākonga's cultural knowledge, life experiences, frames of reference, languages, and performance and communication styles.</i>		
2024	2025	2026
Provide opportunities to build kaiako capacity in tikanga and te reo Māori.	Identify gaps in the implementation of He Reo Pūāwai and develop a plan to address these.	Te reo is spoken confidently, correctly, and often in all domains of the school.
Integrate Te Ao Māori into the Special Character of the school by developing a school pepeha in cooperation with our local iwi.	Explore how our environment could reflect and celebrate Te Ao Māori.	Te Ao Māori is integrated into our Special Character and evidenced in the school environment.
Explore how to employ ākonga's cultural knowledge, perspectives, and skills as a resource for teaching.	Review and plan how school festivals and learning activities ensure Te Ao Māori is evident.	Ākonga's cultural knowledge, perspectives, and skills are employed as a resource for teaching.
Strategic Aim # 3 Improve Student Learning and Engagement <i>The Motueka Steiner School will ensure that all ākonga are empowered to extend themselves to reach their full potential.</i>		
2024	2025	2026
Develop Literacy responses for selected Main Lessons.	Explore ways to engage reluctant readers.	Increased achievement levels in Literacy for all ākonga.
Facilitate PD in Mathematics for kaiako.	Focus on developing 'Rich Maths Tasks'.	Increased achievement levels in Mathematics for all ākonga.
Review Learning Support programmes and develop strategies for implementing improved opportunities for ākonga.	Establish Learning Support programmes that address the needs of our learners.	All ākonga have access to Learning Support programmes.

Strategic Aim # 4 Further develop our environment to support the health and well-being of all ākonga and kaiako to provide a safe, aesthetically pleasing, and environmentally sustainable school. <i>Kaitiakitanga: as a school on a farm, we accept guardianship of the farm environment - The Motueka Steiner School will provide a safe, aesthetically pleasing, and environmentally sustainable school with particular emphasis on EOTC.</i>		
2024	2025	2026
Investigate ways in which the Outdoor Classroom programme can be incorporated into the weekly timetable for all classes.	Outdoor Classroom programme timetabled for all classes.	Develop practices aligned with potential Enviroschool membership.
Investigate ways to improve kaiako health and well-being.	Develop regular kaiako health and well-being practices.	Establish regular kaiako health and well-being practices.
Investigate ways to improve Farm to Table Programme to be more productive.	Implement improvements to Farm to Table programme.	Farm to Table programme is well-established and its produce is abundant.

ⁱ <https://assets.education.govt.nz/public/Documents/NELP-TES-documents/FULL-NELP-2020.pdf>