

# CLOVERLEA SCHOOL

# WHARE MANAAKI



Our nurture space, called Whare Manaaki is a small, calm space where LEGENDs have scheduled time with a Learning Assistant to tautoko them with their Te Whare Tapa Whā / Hauora needs. It has been designed around the concept of equipping our LEGENDs with skills that will tautoko them to be successful in their own ākomanga environments. It is a comfortable withdrawal space that includes resources that promote play and calm interactions with others. Our LEGEND language is a strong element of the korero and support within this space.

## IT IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE:

We know that many of our tamariki with IEPs and IBPs need one-on-one or small group specialist support to make progress. Within Whare Manaaki, we can offer support that caters for the 'function of behaviour' and students' social and emotional needs.

For our LEGENDs who visit our Whare Manaaki, we know and understand that tamariki can find learning difficult and also struggle with the structured length of a full school day. Whare Manaaki provides a break and chance to reset before returning to their class 'ready' for learning. The strategies and systems used within the Whare Manaaki will be used in the student's regular class environment also (e.g. the same visual routine).

We continue to track the classroom behaviour incidents of learners across our kura and scheduled time within our Whare Manaaki is timetabled based on needs and times when these students show heightened behaviour and require a significant amount of teacher or leadership support. Many of the LEGENDs using Whare Manaaki have high needs including developmental disorders, autism, ADHD and anxiety.

## CURRICULUM LINKS:

The teaching within our Whare Manaaki is done through a social context and using a play-based model. We are teaching these LEGENDs to make small decisions about their own learning that they can then try in their own classroom environments too. They are supported through any challenges that arise and learning is scaffolded to allow the LEGEND to experience success.

The NZC values of Innovation, Inquiry and Curiosity are promoted in the way that learning is designed based on student interests and the questions they ask.

Respect is taught through a tuakana - teina relationship, the interactions they have with others and how they are encouraged to care for the Whare Manaaki environment.

The Key Competencies of Managing Self and Relating to Others are strongly promoted.

## WHANAUNGATANGA:

Some of our LEGENDs spending time in our Whare Manaaki haven't established many friendships on their own. This space is a safe place for them to interact with others and to be taught the social skills that support positive connections. Whare Manaaki is a partnership that includes the tamariki/akonga, their kaiako and their learning assistants. LEGENDs return to class with their learning assistant for a positive re-transition. Our 'welcome back' approach by teachers also strengthens this relationship. Whānau are also welcomed to visit this space. As whānau are recognised as an essential aspect of Hauora for Māori (Elder, 2017). Whānau want their tamariki to participate in positive, culturally responsive programmes tailored to their needs and aspirations. The philosophy behind our Whare Manaaki is mana enhancing and ensures social and emotional needs are met as best as possible.

## LINKS TO OUR LEGEND VALUES:

Our Whare Manaaki is a vehicle for explicitly teaching and reinforcing our LEGEND Values. It fosters a PB4L approach. In the same way that each classroom has a weekly Legend Goal, Whare Manaaki incorporates this same focus. Positive reinforcement includes 'bucket filling' message cards. Our LEGEND characters are prominent within the space and as students leave the space they reflect on which character they were like today and the LEGEND Value they are going to use as they return to their class.

## RESEARCH & EVIDENCE:

Our introduction into Whare Manaaki was through exploring Attachment Theory and the work of Joseph Driessen. There are many research articles online that link to the benefits of Sensory Spaces. International research reinforces that multi-sensory environments can support in providing security and lowering aggressive behaviour. Relaxation is considered as a key element to support wellbeing. A nurture space can promote mental and physical relaxation causing student stress levels drop dramatically. Play supports greater learning challenges. Sensory play builds nerve connections in the brain's pathways that can help a child handle complex learning tasks.

## ENACTING TE TIRITI O WAITANGI:

We see each individual child as 'taonga' and aim to support, nurture and empower them. We provide opportunities that meet individual needs and connect with whānau aspirations. Our philosophy is seeing potential rather than a problem. We value and know where our learners are from: who they are, their marae and places in the world they connect with. We've moved away from professional knowledge in isolation, and create a space for whānau and Māori world views. Whare Manaaki upholds individual mana and focuses on a holistic approach, within a cultural lens to enable individual success.

**Ārahi, Kairangi, Nahanaha, Manawaroa, Kotahitanga, Rae Pakari**

**LEAD, EXCELLENCE, ORGANISED, RESILIENCE, INCLUSIVE, DETERMINED**