

# 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 support them with their social, emotional and behavioural needs. It has been designed around the concept of equipping our Legends with skills that will support them to be successful in their own classroom 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 conversation and support within this space.

## IT IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE:

We know that many of our students with IEPs and IBPs need one-on-one or small group specialist support to make progress. Within this space we can offer intervention that caters for the 'function of behaviour'.

For our LEGENDS who visit our Whare Manaaki, we know and understand that they find learning difficult and also struggle with the structured length of our school day. The Whare Manaaki provides a break and chance to reset before returning to their class 'ready' for the next task. 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 timetable).

We continue to track the classroom behaviour incidents of learners across our school 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. The LEGENDS using our Whare Manaaki have special 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 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.

## RELATIONSHIPS:

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. The Whare Manaaki is a partnership that includes the child, their teacher and their learning assistant. 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. Seesaw posts about Whare Manaaki time are sent home every fortnight. The philosophy behind our Whare Manaaki is mana enhancing.

## 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, the Nurture Space incorporates this same focus. Positive reinforcement includes 'bucket filling' message cards and Whare Manaaki Tickets. 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.

## HONOURING TE TIRITI O WAITANGI:

Seeing each individual child as 'taonga' and going out of our way 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.

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

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