

TE TINO RANGATIRATANGA FLAG

June 2025



At Henderson High School, we proudly fly our New Zealand flag and Henderson High School flag every day. From Thursday 19 June, the board has agreed that to demonstrate our commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi, the Māori flag will also fly alongside these other two flags every day.

As a kura we are proud of our academic success, our cultural diversity, and our students. We believe that flying these three flags acknowledges the work done at our school to create a place where the environment nurtures confidence in cultural and personal identity.

History of the Māori flag

In 1989 a commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi was held. During this time, Te Kawariki, a group of influential Māori leaders, planned a competition for a national Māori flag. Thus, Te Kara Tino Rangatiratanga, The Māori Flag, was born.

In December 2009, Te Tino Rangatiratanga Flag was recognised as the preferred Māori Flag by Cabinet. It was also agreed to be flown alongside the New Zealand flag on days of national significance, symbolising the Crown-Māori relationship.

Also in 2009, the Minister of Māori Affairs, Pita Sharples, said that he believed that flying the Māori flag at sites of national significance would reflect and enhance Crown-Māori relationships.

Flying the Māori flag at Henderson High School

At Henderson High School we are choosing to fly the Te Tino Rangatiratanga flag alongside the New Zealand Flag every school day, thus symbolising the significance of the Crown-Māori relationship. On the third flagpole, on most days, the Henderson High School Flag will fly, except for other language weeks etc, when the appropriate flag will fly.

We believe that flying the Tino Rangatiratanga flag daily at our kura will demonstrate our commitment to Mana Ōrite (equal status) and our promise to uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

As a school, we have built strong relationships with the Māori community of our kura. We have set the standard for many kura in West Auckland and the wider region in terms of being more inclusive of te reo, tikanga (customs), Māori practices and mātauranga (knowledge) Māori. Practices such as the pōhiri for all new kaiako (teachers) and tauira (students), karakia (prayer) at assembly and prizegivings, mihi in formal occasions and hosting Māori careers and NCEA information Evenings.

Mātauranga Māori and a Māori world view are also evident in our bilingual signs, in our email signatures and our values - Te Tūāpapa o Panuku. These practices have now become etched into the fabric of our kura, and we should be proud!

This flag serves as a powerful reminder of the unique bicultural foundation of Aotearoa. By flying the Tino Rangatiratanga flag alongside the NZ and HHS flags, we as a kura, demonstrate our continued dedication to fostering an inclusive environment where te ao Māori is valued and celebrated. It provides a visual affirmation of mana whenua and encourages all students, teachers, and our community to engage with, and learn about the rich cultural heritage of Māori. Lastly, it is a symbol of our commitment to continue building community, whakawhānaungatanga.

Our students, including Māori, are succeeding academically at Henderson High School. We believe that flying the Te Tino Rangatiratanga flag will help to anchor and build on that success.

Ngā mihi nui
Henderson High School Board