



Connected Learning

Memorandum of Understanding 2025

Between Te Hiringa Connected Learning (A forest school inspired nature program run by Penny Cullen B.Teach., M.A.S.Sc) and Local MoE registered Schools.

1. Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes the collaborative framework between Te Hiringa Connected Learning, managed by Penny Cullen and a local MoE registered School. The aim is to provide off-site learning opportunities for students at Te Hiringa Connected Learning, ensuring compliance with the Ministry of Education's guidelines and regulations in New Zealand.

2. Objectives

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to formalise the partnership between the local School and Te Hiringa Connected Learning. The key objectives include:

1. **Enhanced Learning Opportunities:** To provide students with unique and enriching learning experiences through outdoor education and experiential learning programs.
2. **Environmental Stewardship:** To foster a sense of responsibility and care for the environment among students, emphasizing the importance of sustainability and conservation.
3. **Collaborative Projects:** To develop and implement collaborative projects that align with both organisations' educational goals and values, enhancing student engagement and community involvement.
4. **Integrating Te Reo Māori and Tikanga** to significantly enhance personal growth, resilience, and community connection among participants.

By achieving these objectives, both organizations aim to enrich the educational experience of students and promote a deeper understanding of their role within the community and the environment.

3. Scope of Agreement

This MOU covers the following aspects of the partnership:

a. **Learning Activities:** Te Hiringa Connected Learning will offer various educational programs tailored to meet the needs of students. These programs will be designed to complement the curriculum and provide experiential learning to inspire curiosity and creativity in areas such as nature education, sustainability, and personal development.

b. **Duration:** This agreement will commence on the agreed and signed date and continue until specified, unless extended by mutual agreement.

c. **Student Participation:** Participation in the program will be voluntary and subject to parental consent. Students will be selected in accordance with school policies, and all participants must adhere to Te Hiringa Connected Learning's code of conduct and safety protocols.

d. **Supervision and Safety:** Penny Cullen and Te Hiringa Connected Learning staff will ensure that all learning experiences are safe, well-supervised, and meet all required health and safety regulations. School staff may also attend sessions for additional support and supervision if deemed necessary..

e. **Location:** The off-site learning will take place for the first 8 Wednesday's of each term at one of the Te Hiringa Connected Learning's two regular spaces, Okato Domain or Weld Road Beach under the direction of Penny Cullen and her team. In extreme weather the Hempton Hall in Okato is rented as a dry space to run the program from.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

a. School:

- Recognise the off-site learning aligns with the New Zealand Curriculum and complies with Ministry of Education requirements.
- Provide support and communication to participating parents and caregivers regarding the program.
- Maintain clear communication with Te Hiringa Connected Learning on schedules, student needs, and any concerns.

b. Te Hiringa Connected Learning (Penny Cullen):

- Provides a safe, structured, and curriculum-aligned educational program for participating students.
- Ensure the safety and well-being of all students during off-site learning activities.
- Provide trained staff and instructors to lead the activities.
- Maintain open communication with regarding student progress, program details, and any incidents or concerns.
- Ensure that all necessary permissions, including parental consent, are obtained.

5. Health and Safety

Te Hiringa Connected Learning will comply with all relevant health and safety regulations to ensure the safety of all participating students. Risk assessments will be conducted, and appropriate safety measures will be in place for all activities. Both parties agree to maintain a zero-tolerance policy for bullying or inappropriate behavior.

6. Reporting and Evaluation

Te Hiringa Connected Learning if required will provide regular updates on student progress and participation. Any feedback gathered from students, parents, and staff to Te Hiringa Connected Learning will be shared.

7. Confidentiality

Both parties agree to maintain the confidentiality of student information in accordance with the Privacy Act 2020 (NZ). Any data shared between the school and Te Hiringa Connected Learning regarding students will be used solely for the purpose of enhancing their educational experience.

8. Review and Renewal

This MOU will be reviewed annually by both parties and may be amended with the written consent of both the participating School and Te Hiringa Connected Learning.

9. Signatures

By signing this Memorandum of Understanding, both parties agree to the terms and conditions outlined above.

Signed:

School Principal Handwritten Name: _____

School: _____

Date: _____

Signed:

Penny Cullen

Director, Te Hiringa Connected Learning

Date: _____

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