

VERRAN PRIMARY SCHOOL CHARTER

2016 – 2018



Principal's Endorsement: 25 February 2016

Board of Trustees Endorsement: 25 February 2016

Date Submitted to Ministry of Education : 29 February 2016

Review of Charter: Consultation with the community, staff and BOT in November / December 2015 has resulted in this updated Charter.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Verran Primary School is a contributing Year 1 to 6 school in the suburb of Birkenhead on Auckland's North Shore. It is a decile 8 school. Situated at the end of a cul de sac with bush reserves adjoining its boundaries Verran Primary School has a strong focus on the environment and sustainable practices within the school. While the school is in an urban area its position provides for green space and a peaceful atmosphere, being away from busy arterial roads. The school has an enrolment zone with the total number of pupils between 300 to 330. With 13 permanent classrooms, a staff of 12 fulltime teachers and 7 part-time teachers, office and support staff, Verran Primary caters for its local community. Verran Primary School is poised to build a new 4 classroom block and a new hall in 2016.

The school population, while predominantly European, is a mix of many different ethnicities, creating a vibrant and diverse community. The school has a reputation for academic excellence with strong foundations in numeracy and literacy but also values the individual qualities of its pupils and their contribution to the school and community. Verran Primary School has a strong record in Environmental Education, being one of the first schools to be awarded the coveted Green Gold Award. Environmental Education and sustainability are key aspects of the school's curriculum and ethos.

The Parent Support Group actively fundraises for school facilities, equipment and resources. The major fundraiser, Town and Country Day, is a popular community event drawing people from all over the North Shore. We are privileged to have so many ex-pupils come and help on this day, which exemplifies the true community spirit within our school.

Verran Primary School has a positive and inclusive atmosphere where relationships between our parent community and the school are welcomed and encouraged, resulting in a positive impact on children's learning. The strong support Verran Primary School receives from its local community is highly valued and is an integral part of our reputation as a caring, effective learning environment.

Introductory Section - Strategic Intentions

Mission Statement:

To provide a strong foundation for our children to become confident, connected, lifelong learners, actively involved in achieving their personal best.

Vision:

Education to ready children to thrive in life.

Values:

The values of the NZ Curriculum – excellence, innovation, inquiry, curiosity, diversity, equity, community and participation, ecological sustainability – all underpin and contribute to the “Verran Way” of caring about Thinking, Honesty, Respect, Innovation, Values, Environment – “THRIVE”

Principles:

Our Principles are those in the New Zealand Curriculum - High Expectations, Learning to Learn, Coherence, Treaty of Waitangi, Cultural Diversity, Inclusion, Future Focus, Community Engagement

Māori dimensions and Cultural Diversity:

The unique position of Maori culture is recognised at Verran Primary School. The school will aim to develop and promote an awareness of Tikanga Maori and Te Reo Maori in order to provide the means for fostering better cultural understanding of the Treaty of Waitangi. The incorporation of Tikanga Maori will involve all reasonable steps and may involve :School Celebrations that reflect Maori culture through greetings in Maori and waiata; Special visitors will be welcomed to the school through a formal powhiri; Our curriculum will provide components of tikanga Maori as appropriate to the topic; School leaders will support staff to focus on the integration of Te Reo into everyday language usage; The school will provide a kapa haka group which meets each week and takes a prominent part in school and community functions. Where parents request full time instruction in Te Reo or Tikanga Maori they will be provided with names and contacts in local schools that provide this opportunity.

The Cultural Diversity of all our children will be respected and celebrated by encouraging children to be proud of their own cultural and ethnic background. Understanding of each other’s culture will be encouraged.