



He Pou Tainui

He Pou Tainui for the Tainui Learner

He Pou Tainui are not just for school but for life.

The concept of the Tainui Pou comes from the Talking Poles that are erected around the Tokoroa area. They aim to depict the variety of cultures in the Tokoroa community.

Our **He Pou Tainui** aim to portray the Tainui Learner and the key competencies our students need to develop and use to be a capable learner not only in school but for lifelong learning.

The key competencies that we have called **He Pou Tainui** also encompass knowledge, skills, attitudes and values. We want to prepare our students to adapt, live and learn in a world that is always changing.

These competencies will assist them to do this.

The idea of the talking pole is that they interact with each other, **He Pou Tainui** do not stand alone, they work together and influence each other.

He Pou Tainui require the teacher to notice not just what the students are learning but how they are learning and their capacity to continue learning.

He Pou Tainui are demonstrated in performance, and they require action.

He Pou Tainui are not just for our students but for everyone because we believe that everyone including teachers are learners.



Key Competencies

The New Zealand Curriculum identifies five key competencies;

Thinking

Managing Self

Participating and Contributing

Using language, symbols and texts

Relating to others

We have interpreted our own Tainui key Competencies known as **He Pou Tainui**.



He Pou Tainui The Story Behind Creating our Pou

In 2013 we consulted with our community and put out a survey. Our survey was brief and simple with just two questions:

What do you think are the strengths of Tainui?

What areas do we need to improve in?

Our students were surveyed and asked one simple question: *What makes a great learner?*

The results of our surveys helped us to plan over the past 3 years and implement necessary change to best meet the needs of our students and community.

There have been many changes and our main driver for change is about the success of our tamariki and their future.

Over this time, we have looked really closely at our learning and what it means to be an effective learner.

The Pou were developed after in depth discussions, consultation, research and understanding of what our students require to be confident, creative, connected and actively involved life long learners.

We know that education today is so different from when mums and dads went to school. When they were at school there was less technology, the teacher stood at the front of the room, there were rows of desks, learning was really about knowing facts and formulas and the jobs we they going in to were in some way defined and were tailored for a specific skill set. It was really one size fits all. Today we don't know what jobs are going to be available to our students and therefore we need to develop certain qualities/competencies that our learners will need in the future, qualities that are all transferable and can be useful in a wide range of jobs, especially jobs that not yet exist.

Our Pou represent our Māori, Pasifika and European cultures in our school. The learners depicted on our Pou are wearing our school uniform, the students are a great representation who is in our school and I am sure our students will resonate with these learners. We have named each Pou in English, Māori, Cook Island and the students know how to do the sign language for each Pou. The Pou are all interlinked. The design you see wrapped in the middle is based on a Cook Island design called 'tikitiki tangata' and this symbolises that each Pou does not stand alone but all work together, it is about unity and strength of the people. Our Pou are based on the Tokoroa Talking Pole concept which depicts the variety of cultures and the forestry heritage.

Each Pou defines our Tainui Learner qualities, these are what makes an effective learner, they are the key to learning in every learning area. We have Tainui Friend, Tainui Communicator, Tainui Collaborator, Tainui Thinker and Tainui Self Manager. These qualities are similar to the Top 10 employable skills listed in Careers NZ and other global businesses.

Our students use the language of the Pou and are learning extensively about the true essence of each Pou and the impact these Learner qualities will mean for them in the future.

He Pou Tainui in Sign Language

Here is the sign for Tainui



Shaking your closed fist in front of your chin



Tainui Thinker



Tainui Friend



Tainui Communicator



Tainui Self Manager



Tainui Collaborator