



## **MICHAEL PARK SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN POLICY**

### **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

#### **Rationale**

Steiner Schools are characterized by a strong and genuine sense of partnership, where the school, family and whānau collaborate to apply their collective skills, energy and ability to support, encourage and enhance the school environment and the learning of the students. It is also important that the school maintains positive relations with the wider community, including its neighbours, organisations aligned with our values, those in Steiner/Waldorf education sector, the national education community in New Zealand and those providing services to the school. This partnership between the school and its community is the strength of the school.

#### **Purpose**

1. To establish and maintain effective channels of communication between the school, its community and neighbours
2. To ensure the school is responsive to the needs and wishes of the community
3. To communicate issues relating to special character, curriculum support and delivery
4. To involve parents and whānau in meaningful ways and in appropriate contexts to enhance the school environment and the learning of the students

#### **Guidelines**

1. The school and kindergarten will provide a welcoming and inclusive environment.
2. A communications plan will be developed and implemented.
3. Neighbours will be advised of any events or works over and above the normal curriculum and learning programme that are likely to be disruptive (e.g. site works or maintenance) and develop protocols to ensure this happens in a consistent and effective way.
4. Parents and whānau will be invited to participate in the visioning process and consulted regarding review and development of the charter and relevant areas of self-review.
5. Where appropriate, parents and whānau will be consulted about and informed of school policies, programmes and community education events.
6. A range of initiatives will be put in place to encourage the development of a well-informed community.
7. Meetings of the Board of Trustees will be open to the public (Parts 7/8 Local Government Information and Meetings Act 1987).
8. The Board will report annually to the community.
9. The Principal and staff will report to parents and whānau on a regular basis regarding matters relating to the school.
10. The school will monitor relationships with its community and neighbours.

Ratified by Board/RSST:



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Signed for BOT/RSST

Date: 31/07/2017