



Kaitaia Primary School

Kia Ngawari (Be Understanding)

Kaitaia Primary School: Principal's Annual Report 2025

Introduction

This report outlines our performance against the three major strategic objectives set for the 2024-2026 period. Our journey this year has been guided by our unwavering commitment to a "Curriculum of Care," ensuring that the social, emotional, and learning needs of every student and their whānau are at the heart of everything we do. Our localised curriculum, "Learning for Keeps," continues to be the foundation of our educational approach, woven from the threads of our core MANAWA values: Manaakitanga, Aroha, Ngawari, Awhi, Whanaungatanga, and Akona.

As a school, we have continued to build on our strengths, fostering a learning environment where every child feels valued, included, and empowered to succeed. This report details our progress in the key areas of cultural responsiveness, student wellbeing, and academic achievement, reflecting the collective effort and dedication of our students, staff, whānau, and the wider community.

Strategic Objective 1: Mana Whenua (Raising Student Achievement)

Our third strategic objective is dedicated to raising student achievement in the core curriculum areas of Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. As I proudly stated in my 2025 Prize Giving speech, "student achievement is on a steady rise, with almost a third of our students making two years of progress in Reading, Writing and Mathematics this year. Even more heartening is that the data shows this progress is shared across all our students, regardless of gender or ethnicity." 4

Writing

Our school-wide focus on writing has yielded exceptional results in 2025. Across Years 1 to 5, we have exceeded our charter targets for both expected and accelerated progress. While we fell slightly short of our accelerated progress targets for Years 1 and 6, the overall picture is one of significant improvement, with 26.7% of all students making accelerated progress in writing. 1

Year	Target (1+ sub-level)	Result	Variance	Target (2+ sub-levels)	Result	Variance
1	50%	53.6%	+3.6%			
2	50%	88.1%	+38.1%	10%	19.0%	+9.0%
3	70%	94.4%	+24.4%	30%	36.1%	+6.1%
4	70%	89.8%	+19.8%	30%	36.7%	+6.7%
5	70%	83.0%	+13.0%	30%	32.1%	+2.1%
6	70%	82.0%	+12.0%	30%	26.0	-4.0%

Table 2: 2025 Writing Results (1+ sub-level progress) 1

Reading and Mathematics

In Reading and Mathematics, we have also seen pleasing progress. In Reading, 34% of our Māori students, 33% of boys, and 37% of girls made accelerated shifts of two or more sub-levels. In Mathematics, 23% of Māori students, 20% of boys, and 24% of girls achieved accelerated progress. ¹

These achievements are a direct result of our targeted teaching programmes and the dedication of our staff. Key initiatives in 2025 have included the implementation of the Sunshine Decodable Series, the BSLA programme, and a school-wide refresh of our PR1ME Maths implementation.

Strategic Objective 2: Mana Tangata (Positive Self Identity and Relationships)

Our second strategic objective centres on fostering positive self-identity, wellbeing, and strong relationships within our school community. The 2025 ERO review commended our "caring, inclusive environment and respectful relationships with adults fostering a strong sense of belonging." ²

The Mana Potential Programme has been successfully embedded across all classrooms, providing students with the strategies to self-manage their responses to challenges independently. The establishment of the Whare Manaaki as a welcoming space with a breakfast club has been pivotal in providing a settled start to the day for many of our students.

We have maintained our commitment to a 1:22 teacher-student ratio with the support of full-time Teacher Aides in every classroom. This, along with the continuation of the Lunches in Schools programme, has ensured that our students are well-supported and ready to learn.

We are also pleased to report an improvement in our attendance rates, with a continued focus on reducing truancy and fostering a school environment where every child wants to be.

Term	2022	2023	2024	2025
1	76.54%	83.01%	86.82%	83.85%
2	80.46%	80.60%	82.41%	83.05%
3	80.35%	81.87%	83.47%	79.80%
4	82.92%	83.28%	83.75%	80.86%

Table 1: School Attendance Rates (2022-2025) ³

Strategic Objective 3: Te Reo Māori (Mana Whenua)

Our first strategic objective focuses on embedding cultural responsiveness and the use of te reo Māori throughout our school. We are proud to report significant progress in this area, with the 2025 ERO review highlighting that our "students have a strong sense of language, culture and identity through genuine, authentic relationships with mana whenua." ²

Our KPS Effective Teacher Profile has been instrumental in ensuring our staff are equipped with the cultural competencies necessary to create a truly inclusive learning environment. This is complemented by our KPS Student Graduate Profile, which nurtures the development of Tu Tangata (strong self-identity), Tu Kaha (confidence and independence), Tu Maia (humility), Tu Auaha (creativity), and Tu Hononga (connectedness).

Throughout 2025, we have continued to strengthen our connection with our local iwi and community, working with local kaumatua and kuia to collect and share the rich histories of our land. This has been a key focus in the lead-up to our 150th jubilee celebrations in 2025.

Conclusion

2025 has been a year of significant achievement for Kaitaia Primary School. We have made substantial progress against our three strategic objectives, and our students are thriving in a learning environment that is culturally responsive, supportive, and focused on academic excellence. As we look ahead to 2026 and the nationwide curriculum refresh, we are well-placed to continue our journey of improvement, guided by our MANAWA values and our unwavering commitment to our "Curriculum of Care." 5

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our dedicated staff, our supportive Board of Trustees, and our wonderful whānau for their ongoing partnership. Together, we are making a real difference in the lives of our tamariki.

Brendon Morrissey

Principal, Kaitaia Primary School

References

[1] [Analysis of Variance 2025. \(2025\). Kaitaia Primary School.](#)

[2] [Areas of strength doc for ERO. \(2025\). Kaitaia Primary School.](#)

[3] [2025 Annual Curriculum Implementation Plan. \(2025\). Kaitaia Primary School.](#)

[4] [2025 Prize Giving Speech. \(2025\). Kaitaia Primary School.](#)

[5] [Kaitaia Primary School's Curriculum of Care](#)

