

Tahakopa School Learning Languages Statement

“Learning another language is not only learning different words for the same things, but learning another way of thinking about things.” (Flora Lewis)

The New Zealand Curriculum	What is important to us		
<p>What is learning languages about? Learning a new language provides a means of communicating with people from another culture and exploring one's own personal world. Languages are inseparably linked to the social and cultural contexts in which they are used. Languages and cultures play a key role in developing our personal, group, national and human identities.</p> <p>Why study a language? Arts education explores, challenges, affirms and celebrates Languages link people locally and globally. They are spoken in the community, used internationally, and play a role in shaping the world. Oral, written, and visual forms of language link us to the past, and give us access to new and different streams of thought and to beliefs and cultural practices. Learning a new language extends students' linguistic and cultural understanding and their ability to interact appropriately with other speakers. As they learn a language, students develop their understanding of the power of language. They discover new ways of learning, new ways of knowing, and more about their own capabilities.</p> <p>How is the learning area structured? This learning area puts students' ability to communicate at the centre by making communication the core strand. This strand is supported by two further strands, which are directly specifically at developing the linguistic and cultural awareness needed for communicative competence.</p> <p>Communication – students learn to use the language to make meaning</p> <p>Language Knowledge – students study the language in order to understand how it works</p> <p>Cultural Knowledge – students learn about culture and the interrelationship between culture and language</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Communication</p> <p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> become more effective communicators develop more receptive skills of listening develop more receptive skills of reading and viewing develop more productive skills of speaking develop more productive skills of writing and presenting or performing 	<p style="text-align: center;">Language Knowledge</p> <p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> learn about relationships between different words and structures know how speakers adjust their language for different situations over time become more fluent 	<p style="text-align: center;">Cultural Knowledge</p> <p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> grow in confidence as they learn to recognize different elements of the belief systems of the language become aware of the ways these are expressed through language and culture compare and contrast different beliefs and cultural practices to understand more about themselves and others become more understanding of others appreciate other languages and cultures