



GLENITI SCHOOL

Heather Geddes
Presiding Member
Gleniti School Board of Trustees
Heath Street
Timaru, 7910

4 December 2025

Hon Erica Stanford
Minister of Education
Via email

Dear Minister,

Re: Gleniti School does not support the removal of Te Tiriti o Waitangi from school board objectives.

I am writing to you as the Presiding Member on behalf of the Gleniti School Board of Trustees in Timaru to express our strong opposition to the removal of obligations regarding Te Tiriti o Waitangi from the responsibilities of school boards. We believe that maintaining these obligations is essential not only for the integrity of our educational system but also for fostering a more inclusive and equitable society.

Importance of Te Tiriti o Waitangi Obligations

As Crown entities, school boards have both legal and moral duty to understand and give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Removing these obligations from school boards undermines the commitment to ensuring that all learners, particularly Māori learners, receive an education that respects their culture, language, and identity.

- **Cultural Relevance:** The obligations of Te Tiriti o Waitangi ensures that our curriculum is culturally relevant and inclusive. By integrating Māori perspectives and values into our teaching, we not only enrich the educational experience for all students but also promote understanding and respect for Māori culture.
- **Equity in Education:** The removal of these obligations could exacerbate existing disparities in educational outcomes for Māori students. Our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi drives us to implement strategies that support Māori achievement, ensuring that all students have equal opportunities to succeed.
- **Community Engagement:** Upholding Te Tiriti o Waitangi fosters stronger relationships between schools and the local hapū. This engagement is crucial for building trust and collaboration, which ultimately benefits our students and enhances their learning environment.



Gleniti School's Commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi

At Gleniti School, we take our obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi seriously and have implemented several initiatives to ensure we meet these responsibilities:

Culturally Responsive Curriculum: We have integrated Māori history, language, and culture into our curriculum. This includes teaching Te Reo Māori and incorporating Māori perspectives in various subjects, ensuring that all students gain a deeper understanding of our nation's heritage.

Partnership with Local Iwi: We actively collaborate with local iwi to develop educational programs and resources that reflect the needs and aspirations of Māori students. This partnership has led to the establishment of cultural events and activities that celebrate Māori traditions and values.

Professional Development: Our staff regularly participate in professional development focused on culturally responsive teaching practices. This training equips our educators with the skills and knowledge necessary to support Māori students effectively and to create an inclusive learning environment.

Student Support: We have established support initiatives specifically designed to assist Māori students in their academic journey. These aim to address barriers to learning and promote success through mentorship and tailored resources.

In conclusion, we strongly believe that the obligations of Te Tiriti o Waitangi are integral to the mission of Gleniti School and to the broader educational landscape in New Zealand. Removing these obligations not only diminishes our commitment to equity and inclusion but also jeopardises the educational outcomes for our Māori students. The learning outcomes for all our children benefit from our school taking its obligations to Te Tiriti o Waitangi seriously, a culturally competent school is an inclusive school, which is of benefit to all.

We urge you to reconsider the removal of these vital obligations and to continue supporting schools in their efforts to uphold honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Together, we can ensure that all students receive an education that is respectful, inclusive, and reflective of our diverse society.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your support in preserving our obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Sincerely,



Heather Geddes
Presiding Member
Gleniti School Board of Trustees

Copied: President, Te Whakarōpūtanga Kaitiaki Kura o Aotearoa (NZ School Boards Assoc.)

