

GCK Philosophy Statement

Each child (tamaiti) and their whānau who are part of our Glendowie Christian Kindergarten (GCK) family are valued as unique individuals created by God. We treat all Tamariki and whanau with aroha, dignity and respect, fostering a strong sense of Wellbeing, belonging and inclusion as they learn and grow.

The GCK learning environment honours the unique bicultural heritage of Aotearoa New Zealand. We respect and acknowledge Te Tiriti o Waitangi through meaningful incorporation of te reo Māori, tikanga Māori and respectful partnerships with whānau. GCK also celebrates the multicultural heritage and diversity of all families within our kindergarten community.

In every part of our day, directly and indirectly, our Christian beliefs, values and character are modelled and woven throughout the programme. We believe Tamariki reach their full potential when education and care are offered within a supportive environment grounded in faith, aroha (love) , manaakitanga (kindness) and whanaungatanga.(relationships)

At GCK, we value *Te Whāriki*, the early childhood curriculum, and incorporate its principles and strands throughout our environment and practice. We believe tamariki learn best through play, exploration and responsive relationships. Our programme fosters children's curiosity, creativity, intentional teaching and active exploration through self-paced, self-directed learning experiences.

We value warm, responsive, nurturing and respectful relationships that support tamariki to feel emotionally secure, confident and safe. Relationships and consistent routines support younger tamariki to develop trust, security and a strong sense of belonging.

Our physical environment and resources enable children to explore and develop holistically — physically, emotionally, socially, cognitively, spiritually and culturally — within an environment of freedom, dignity, respect and safety. The importance of caring for God's creation is modelled and encouraged as children learn to act as kaitiaki of the world around them.

We believe early childhood education is a collaborative partnership between tamariki, Kaiako, whānau, hapū and Glendowie Christian Kindergarten. We endeavour to nurture and protect these partnerships through all aspects of children's learning and experiences as they transition into kindergarten, through the programme and onward to school and life. We aspire for tamariki to become confident, capable, compassionate and lifelong learners.