

# Aotearoa New Zealand's histories

## Information for school boards

This article is an introduction to Aotearoa New Zealand's histories. It explains the focus of the curriculum content, why it is important, information you should know, and the role of the school board in implementing Aotearoa New Zealand's histories in your local curriculum.

### What is Aotearoa New Zealand's histories?

Aotearoa New Zealand is on a journey to ensure that all ākonga in our schools and kura learn how our histories help shape our lives. Through the Aotearoa New Zealand's histories curriculum content, ākonga will be supported to explore historical contexts from various perspectives and think critically about what we know about the past, how we know it and how it shapes our present and future.

The new curriculum content looks different in *Te Marautanga o Aotearoa* and *The New Zealand Curriculum*. 'Aotearoa New Zealand's histories' refers to the new curriculum content for schools or kura who align their teaching to *The New Zealand Curriculum*. 'Te Takanga o Te Wā' is the new curriculum content for kura and schools who align their teaching with *Te Marautanga o Aotearoa*.

Each learning area in *The New Zealand Curriculum* is being refreshed between now and 2025. Aotearoa New Zealand's histories will be part of the refreshed Social Sciences learning area but it **does not** replace the Social Sciences learning area. Rather, it gives more explicit direction on the learning that cannot be left to chance about our histories.

### Why is Aotearoa New Zealand's histories important?

Previously, every school could choose how they would teach Aotearoa New Zealand's histories. This meant that many students left school without knowing about key parts of our history, how these have changed our nation, and different peoples' perspectives or experiences.

Many New Zealanders said that this was not meeting their expectations - particularly for learning about Te Tiriti o Waitangi, colonisation, the Land Wars, and waves of migration. The Ministry of

Education has been asked to change our curriculum to make it more explicit about how students learn Aotearoa New Zealand's histories, and explore different people's experiences of these histories.

### What is the key information I need to know?

All schools and kura are to implement and teach Aotearoa New Zealand's histories from the beginning of the 2023 school year. **To ensure a smooth transition, all schools are expected to begin planning the implementation of the curriculum content in 2022 and use it in 2023.**

### What is included in the Aotearoa New Zealand's histories curriculum content?

#### THE NEW PROGRESSIONS MODEL

The progress outcomes for ākonga are described across four phases (years 1-3, years 4-6, years 7-8 and years 9-10). These phases are different to the current curriculum levels in *The New Zealand Curriculum*.

#### THE 'UNDERSTAND, KNOW, AND DO' ELEMENTS

There are three elements in the Aotearoa New Zealand's histories curriculum content: **Understand, Know, and Do**. These are not linear. Teachers design learning experiences that weave these elements together so that student learning is deep and meaningful.

The new curriculum content will not prescribe accounts or versions of histories. Rather, teachers will support ākonga to strengthen their ability to carry out inquiry practices, so that ākonga are thinking critically about the past and the different ways in which it is interpreted.

## ROHE AND LOCAL CONTEXTS

Teachers will choose topics that have personal and social significance for society and that engage ākonga at local, national, and global levels. Selecting meaningful topics is critical if ākonga are to deepen their understanding of the curriculum's big ideas and be able to apply them to both familiar and new contexts.

## What is your board's role in all of this?

Implementing the Aotearoa New Zealand's histories curriculum content will support your board's work towards the updated objectives in the Education and Training Act (2020).

Your board can work with the principal and leadership team to:

- Include Aotearoa New Zealand's histories in the strategic plans and goals of your school.
- Consult and partner with your whānau, local hapū, iwi and community to understand the stories about the people, events, and changes that are important to people in your area. If you have no Māori whānau, or hapū and iwi connections at your school already, seek support and introductions to Māori communities through Kāhui Ako / school networks or seek advice from your local Ministry of Education office.
- Develop a plan to support kaiako to deliver this learning in a way that is physically and emotionally safe for all ākonga and staff.
- Ensure teachers are aware of the resources and professional development opportunities available to support implementation, and that your board has considered the implications for your school budget.

Your board will need to approve the school's local curriculum after the content has been incorporated. This local curriculum will continue to change and develop as partnerships with your communities strengthen over time.

## Questions to ask your principal

The questions below are suggestions to get you started on working with your principal and leadership team to incorporate Aotearoa New Zealand's histories into your local curriculum:

1. How do we strategically plan for effective engagement with our whānau, hapū, and iwi?
2. How do we ensure that our local curriculum gives every ākonga access to diverse local, regional and national histories?

3. How do we ensure that whānau, hapū and iwi can participate in the development of our local curriculum to include Aotearoa New Zealand's histories, and make sure that our local curriculum reflects their contributions?
4. In what ways do we already teach Aotearoa New Zealand's histories and how can we identify the areas that we could strengthen?
5. How will we ensure that we look after the emotional wellbeing of ākonga, teachers, whānau, hapū and iwi when learning and teaching Aotearoa New Zealand's histories?

## Aotearoa New Zealand's histories curriculum checklist

Has your board supported the following things to happen before 1 January 2023?

- Kaiako, teachers and staff are aware of and can take opportunities to develop their skills and knowledge to support their learning and teaching of Aotearoa New Zealand's histories.
- Your local curriculum has been designed with your community, including whānau, hapū, and iwi where these groups are ready and have capacity to engage with your school.
- Your school's three-year Strategic Plan in 2023 includes ongoing implementation of Aotearoa New Zealand's histories.
- Your local curriculum:
  - a. includes critical local histories as defined by hapū and iwi in your rohe
  - b. reflects local tikanga Māori, mātauranga Māori, and te ao Māori
  - c. provides opportunity for all students to attain their highest possible standard in educational achievement.

## Relevant resources

- Aotearoa New Zealand's histories curriculum content.
- Aotearoa New Zealand's histories Poutama on page 5 of the ANZH Leading Local Curriculum Guide [aotearoahistories.education.govt.nz/resources](https://aotearoahistories.education.govt.nz/resources)