

# Te Aute College and Hukarere Girls' College



## 1. What are Te Aute College and Hukarere Girls' College?

### What makes these schools unique?

Te Aute College and Hukarere Girls' College are the only two Mihinare (Māori Anglican) schools in the world. They are boarding schools in Hawke's Bay, Aotearoa New Zealand, serving Māori rangatahi (young people) within the life of Te Hāhi Mihinare - the Māori Anglican Church.

### Who founded the schools and why?

The schools were founded by early Anglican missionaries, most notably the Williams family, in partnership with Māori. Our tīpuna encountered the Gospel, recognised its truth, and chose to draw it deeply into the life of their communities. Te Aute was established in 1854 and Hukarere in 1875.

### What is the mission of the schools?

The schools exist so that Māori rangatahi may be formed in learning, identity, and faith — grounded in who they are as Māori and as members of Te Hāhi Mihinare, and prepared to serve their communities and the world.

## 2. What is Te Hāhi Mihinare?

### What does 'Mihinare' mean?

Mihinare is the Māori term for Anglican, derived from 'missionary.' Te Hāhi Mihinare is the indigenous expression of Anglicanism in Aotearoa — the Māori Anglican Church, where the life of the Gospel is expressed through Māori language, tikanga, and community.

### How did the Anglican faith become part of Māori life?

Our tīpuna did not simply receive the faith from missionaries; they made it their own. They built whare karakia (churches), nurtured prayer within their homes, and wove together the teachings of Christ with their own reo, mātauranga, and ways of living. From this weaving emerged the living tradition of Te Hāhi Mihinare.

### How large is the Anglican Church globally?

The Anglican Communion is present in more than 165 countries with nearly 130 million Anglicans worldwide. In Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia there are 46 Anglican schools serving approximately 20,000 students. Te Aute and Hukarere are part of this global mission.

## 3. What is the Special Character?

### What are the foundations of the Special Character?

The Special Character of Ngā Kura Mihinare rests on several active foundations: the teaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; the worshipping life of the community; the sacramental ministry of Te Hāhi Mihinare, including the Eucharist; the presence of the Church through chaplaincy; the expression of mātauranga Mihinare, where mātauranga Māori and the Gospel are woven together; and the Mihinare communal life of the boarding environment.

### What is mātauranga Mihinare?

Mātauranga Mihinare is a way of learning and living that emerges from the weaving together of mātauranga Māori, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the worship and tradition of the Anglican Church. It forms the distinctive character of Ngā Kura Mihinare.

### What are the values that shape school life?

The life of the schools is guided by the vision of Te Oranga Ake o te Iwi, o te Ao — the flourishing of life for the people and the world. This flourishing is expressed through three gifts of God: Aroha (Love), which strengthens community and seeks the wellbeing of others; Rongo (Peace), which restores right relationships and nurtures justice; and Hari (Joy), which strengthens the people of God.

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## 4. Worship and Spiritual Life

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### How is faith expressed in daily school life?

Students participate in the worshipping life of the Church through daily chapel services, regular chapel gatherings, and a weekly Eucharist service. They are also given opportunities to participate in chapel team training, discipleship and leadership formation, chapel activities and classes, and preparation for Baptism and Confirmation.

### How does boarding life connect to the Special Character?

Just as faith has been transmitted through the kāenga (home) for generations, boarding life at Te Aute and Hukarere seeks to be a place of wholeness, healing, and formation within Te Hāhi Mihinare. Students learn to live together with responsibility, discipline, and care for one another, growing in identity, faith, and leadership.

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## 5. Governance and Legal Protection

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### Who holds responsibility for the schools?

Te Aute College and Hukarere Girls' College are held in trust by the Te Aute Trust Board, which serves as the Proprietor of the schools. Members of the Trust Board are appointed through General Synod / Te Hīnota Whānui of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia.

### How is the Special Character legally protected?

Both schools operate as state-integrated schools. The Special Character is protected through Integration Agreements between the Crown and the Proprietor. These agreements require that the schools be conducted and operated in a manner that maintains and preserves their Anglican Special Character. The Proprietor retains the right to access the schools to ensure the Special Character is faithfully maintained.

### Who provides spiritual oversight of the schools?

Te Pīhopa (the Bishop) provides overall spiritual authority and guardianship of the Mihinare identity of both colleges. The Archdeacon for Ngā Kura Mihinare holds delegated oversight of Special Character and leads the spiritual life of both colleges. The chaplaincy (Ngā Minita) supports the Archdeacon in tikanga karakia and pastoral care.

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*He kura rangatira — schools of distinction  
Te Oranga Ake o te Iwi, o te Ao — the flourishing  
of life for the people and the world*

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## 6. Enrolment

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### Who may enrol at Te Aute and Hukarere?

The schools were established to serve Māori communities within the life of Te Hāhi Mihinare. Preferential enrolment exists to protect and sustain the Anglican and Mihinare Special Character. Under the Integration Agreements, at least 90% of students must be preference students, with no more than 10% non-preference students.

### What does preference enrolment mean?

Preference is given to students whose families recognise and support the Christian and Anglican character of the schools. This includes students who belong to Te Hāhi Mihinare, belong to another Christian church (with proprietor approval), or come from families who actively support the Mihinare Special Character. Non-preference students may enrol where places are available within the 10% limit.

### What should families understand before enrolling?

All families must understand that joining Te Aute College or Hukarere Girls' College means joining a living Mihinare community — a community where faith, identity, and learning are woven together, and where students are expected to participate respectfully in chapel and communal worship.

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## 7. Community Expectations

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### What is expected of staff?

Staff are expected to support the Anglican and Mihinare identity of the schools, model the values of Aroha, Rongo, and Hari, support the worship and communal life of the schools, and nurture students in leadership and service.

### What is expected of students?

Students are expected to participate respectfully in chapel and communal worship, respect the Christian faith and traditions of the school, uphold the values of Aroha, Rongo, and Hari, and contribute positively to the school community.

### What is expected of whānau?

Whānau are expected to respect and support the Christian and Mihinare Special Character of the schools, encourage their children to participate positively in school life, and work in partnership with the school to support students.