

21 October 2025

Kia ora, Talofa, Kia orana, Kōranga, Mālō e lelei, Bula vinaka, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Fakatalofa atu, Mālō nī, Namaste, Kumusta, and greetings to you all.

Thank you for your interest in this permanent full time position of ORS Specialist Teacher. The position has a 12+ hours teacher component within our Aukaha special programme for ākonga with Ongoing Resourcing Scheme (ORS) provision, subject to our growing roll, staffing and learning needs. Please state other subjects and areas of specialty. The position starts Wednesday 28 January, 2026. Applications for the position are to be emailed to: ed@tearatai.school.nz by Monday 17 November 9am. By the closing date and time above, applications must include the following three aspects, fully completed:

1. covering letter, considering the requirements for this role
2. curriculum vitae, considering the requirements for this role
3. Te Aratai College application form, available from our website: www.tearatai.school.nz

Aukaha - Special Programme

The whakatauki: “Aukaha kia kaha” - *strengthen the bonds* refers to the binding necessary for waka or tools to be practical and useful, for example fastening the rauawa to the hull of the waka thus tightening the bindings. The name Aukaha relates to our cultural narrative (Ngāi Tūāhuriri), and to the bonds strengthened between all ākonga. We have the privilege of operating our specialist programme called Aukaha for ākonga verified for the On-going Resourcing Scheme (ORS). Our Aukaha special programme is growing, currently supporting 21 ākonga with ORS Verification, led by our Teacher in Charge; Aukaha and supported by our dedicated learning assistants/teacher aides.

The ORS Specialist Teacher role sits within the learning area known to us as Te Pā Harakeke, often called Learning Support in other kura. We aim to provide our ORS programme through inclusive and strength based learning opportunities across the full life of Te Aratai. Each ākonga in Aukaha has an Individualised Education Plan (IEP) or a Te Aratai Good Life Plan (Y11+), an individualised timetable, including focused learning opportunities within Aukaha and opportunities to develop their skills within year level and/or subject classes throughout the wider school.

Alongside our Teacher in Charge; Aukaha, Rachael McLeod, you will continue the development of future focused learning, teaching and pathway planning for our ākonga as they move through their junior and senior years at Te Aratai. This will include collaboration with staff in other learning areas as they develop their programmes to further enrich the opportunities available to the ākonga in Aukaha.

We recognise, in particular, our context within the wider takiwā of Te Rūnanga O Ngāti Tūāhuriri. We are committed to Ka Kikitia: Kā Hapaitia, the Action Plan for Pacific Education and Inclusive Education. We are now 1250+ ākonga from Years 7-13 with 30% identifying as Māori and 13% Moana-nui-a-kiwa - Pacific.

Vision: At Te Aratai our vision is to empower and inspire the development of Mauri Ora through ako for all learners.

Ngā Uara - Our Values:

Rangatiratanga - self-determination and self-management

Manaakitanga - the process of showing respect, generosity and care for others

Whanaungatanga - a relationship through shared experiences and working together which provides people with a sense of belonging

Tūrangawaewae - where one has the right to stand

Mōhou ake - About You

We would like to hear from you if you...

- bring a strong understanding and working experience of neurodiversity from a Māori-centric view, supporting “desires to learn, grow, and succeed as Māori in their own space and time” (Riwai-Couch, 2021)
- have recent experience working with ākonga with verified ORS in an educational setting
- are an experienced kaiako-teacher across the New Zealand Curriculum including literacy (te reo Māori and english) and numeracy at Levels 1-3 and have confidence in supporting older ākonga who are working at similar levels
- are highly relational, collaborative and flexible in engaging a range of ākonga, whānau, kaiako-teachers, and experienced learning assistants/teacher aides in educationally powerful collaborations
- are committed to deliberate acts of teaching for calm environments, even in busy seas
- are ready to be adaptable and responsive to the changing needs of Te Pā Harakeke and the wider learning support needs of our whānau and growing kura.

You must have the following to be considered for this role...

- a proven track record of Te Tiriti o Waitangi implementation in pedagogy
- recent education/teaching experience in Aotearoa and a working understanding of The New Zealand Curriculum, assessment practices and tools, and Individual Education Planning
- a proven track record of ensuring clear learning plans, culturally relevant indicators of ‘success’ and engaging communication pathways
- a professional work ethic and deep commitment equity and to the teaching profession
- experience participating relationally as a team member
- proven ability to manage multiple tasks and competing demands
- a willingness to learn and/or experience liaising with partner agencies including but not limited to the Ministry of Education Therapeutic Team, Ministry of Education Learning Support, RTLB, Oranga Tamariki, BLENNZ and Ko Taku Reo.

How to apply

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If this role interests you, please follow the application process as above. We encourage you to be your authentic self in your application. Note: We will be screening applications as we receive them to move swiftly to interview shortly after the advert closes.

For further information about this position, our college and the wider context, please reach out as early as possible to make a time to discuss either in person or on the phone:

- Melissa Young: Deputy Principal; email: yg@tearatai.school.nz
- Maria Lemalie: Principal; email: principal@tearatai.school.nz

Ngā mihi nui

Maria Lemalie

Tumuaki – Principal

Te Aratai College

Te Aratai - name gifted to the college by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tūāhuriri

formerly known as Linwood High School, Linwood College, and Linwood College at Ōtākaro

"Linwood College on Aldwins Road is adjacent to the direct pathway (now Linwood Ave) to Te Ihutai, "The Avon-Heathcote Estuary" which was part of a larger fishery used by Ngāi Tūāhuriri. Te Ihutai, was renowned for its abundance and variety of fish and shellfish, including tuna (eels), kanakana (lamprey), inaka (whitebait), pātiki (flounder), and pipi. Several nearby kāinga nohoanga (settlements) took advantage of the estuary's rich food resources, with caves along the base of the nearby foothills providing necessary shelter.

The estuary itself was the gateway to the vast comprehensive network of wetlands that once extended throughout the Canterbury region, with the Ōtākaro (Avon) and Ōpāwaho (Heathcote River) being the primary access routes. (kahurumanu.co.nz – Ngāi Tahu cultural mapping project and atlas).

This name links the school to this significant route and this significant mahinga kai area (Te Ihutai) which was traditionally owned and used by Kaiapoi Ngāi Tahu (Ngāi Tūāhuriri) and this relationship is acknowledged as part of the Claims Settlement Act 1998.

The major waterways Ōtākaro and Ōpāwaho flow into Te Ihutai and the school's catchment zone includes schools located along these waterways."

The name *Te Aratai College* is a keystone for so much else of our redevelopment. Two immediate examples are:

- *place-based curriculum: using our local environment in our learning*
- *learning pathways: our students' individual learning pathways from early childhood education, through primary school, into secondary school and out into tertiary study and/or employment*

*It also links with our two Kāhui Ako: Tamai (Linwood-Woolston-Bromley) and Aupaki (Heathcote and the Bays.) The Linwood Ave pathway is geographically Tamai; and Te Ihutai (the estuary) and the coast are geographically Aupaki. The name *Te Aratai College* unifies these.*

*We acknowledge the proud history of the name Linwood since 1954, the school's opening. 2022, and our total school rebuild, is the opportunity to create a school name and identity that is open and inclusive to our wider community we serve, and is not just based on the actual location of the school. We are very grateful to Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga for their gift to our whānau, to our community of this beautiful and appropriate name - *Te Aratai College*.*