



Guiding Principle of the Hokonui Rūnanga and Māruawai College Relationship

Utu/Reciprocity

Utu is sometimes referred to as the principle of reciprocity or equivalence, with some regarding its main purpose as maintaining relationships.

The concept of reciprocity guides the relationship between Māruawai College and Hokonui Rūnanga. Reciprocity sits at the heart of many communities, including our close-knit rural communities who support each other in times of abundance and strife, and within Māori communities who consider this concept central to maintaining equivalence within a tikanga-based world. The concept of reciprocity reminds us that generosity, kindness, and consideration given to another will always find its way back to us. Similarly, it cautions us to think twice before we treat others in ways we would not want reflected back in our own times of need.

In the context of our relationship, reciprocity will look like the sharing of experience, resources, and opportunities for the benefit of our students and wider school community. It also looks like role-modelling the kind of Te Tiriti-grounded relationship that we want students to embody as they grow into the next generation of leaders within our nation. Finally, it looks like both Māruawai College and Hokonui Rūnanga understanding the responsibility we each hold within this relationship, and the potential consequences for our students of failing to live up to that responsibility. Alongside this, is the understanding that equivalence can always be restored through reinvesting in ways we would each like to see reciprocated. We reap what we sow, and if we don't like our harvest, we can always plant something different for the next season.

MŌ TĀTOU, Ā, MO KĀ URI A MURI AKE NEI – FOR US AND OUR CHILDREN AFTER US

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