



Taonga Policy

Definition of Taonga:

1. A tangible item of adornment that reflects tikanga Maori (Maori Customs).
2. A representation of Maori culture and identity.
3. Taonga can be made with traditional (bone, greenstone and wood) or contemporary materials such as silver, gold and copper.)

Taonga may be worn in the following manner:

1. One item only will be worn.
2. Around the neck ONLY, excluding earrings or head dress of any kind.
3. Outside the school uniform allowing taonga to be visible.
4. Taonga must be removed or made safe when students engage in physical activity where the taonga may cause harm to themselves (the wearer) and or others, for e.g. in sports, drama and dance and technology.
5. Students and their parents must also ensure that the design of their taonga is reasonably practical and can be easily worn without impeding or restricting movement, is not oversized or inappropriate

School management responsibilities:

- The school will take no responsibility for the loss or damage of taonga if a taonga needs to be removed for health and safety reasons.
- The school will assign a Maori cultural advisor, which might include a current staff member or a knowledgeable person associated with the school to offer advice and support for both students and teachers regarding taonga.
- Taonga deemed to be oversized, impractical or inappropriate will need to be removed and will remain in the care of the student

Signed for the Board of Trustees

Date reviewed - 13 August 2015