



"Ko ngā pae tawhiti whāia kia tata, ko ngā pae tata, whakamaua kia tina."

"The potential for tomorrow depends on what we do today."

Waitangi Day is widely recognised as New Zealand's national day; it is an occasion for reflecting on the Treaty and its place in Aotearoa today.

The Treaty of Waitangi is one of the eight principles that provide a foundation for decision making within The New Zealand Curriculum. The Treaty of Waitangi principle puts students at the centre of teaching and learning, asserting that they should experience a curriculum that engages and challenges them, is forward-looking and inclusive, and affirms New Zealand's unique identity.

We are working on how Torbay School affirms New Zealand's unique identity, which is an ongoing process. We value Tikanga Māori and learning more about how to recognise it at school. We are working on giving opportunities for all students to hear and use Te Reo Māori. Students will have opportunities to participate in kapa haka. We are also learning more about the Treaty of Waitangi in school because it is important for the children to learn about the history of New Zealand.

Here's a brief history of the Treaty

In 1840, Māori rangatira (chiefs) and British settlers signed two different versions of the Treaty of Waitangi - one in English and one in Māori. The two treaties had significant differences in their translations. In the Māori version, the British Crown gained governorship over British subjects living in New Zealand, while Māori would retain rangatiratanga (sovereignty) over the land, forests, rivers and tāonga (treasure or that which they deemed precious). The Crown believed the English text gave the power to govern, create laws and hold power to them.

At the time of signing, the population in Aotearoa was 80,000 Māori and 2050 non-Māori. It's also important to note more Māori chiefs signed the Māori version of the text than the English one, and that the Māori version of the text is the only version recognised under international law.

Despite this, in the years following, significant numbers of British settlers arrived, and the British Crown took over governance of all areas of life. A long and ongoing process of colonisation ensued which still has impacts today.

This week we have been discussing the importance and significance of Waitangi day. Your child may have further questions, so if you would like more information on the topic please see the link below for resources.

[Link to Maori and New Zealand History Resource lists](#)

[Waitangi Day – how will you commemorate? \(n.d.\). Retrieved February 08, 2018, from http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/Curriculum-resources/National-events-and-the-NZC/Waitangi-Day](http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/Curriculum-resources/National-events-and-the-NZC/Waitangi-Day)