



Sacred Heart
Girls' College

HAMILTON

Tuakana-Teina

TUAKANA

TEINA



AKO

Tuakana-teina is a teaching and learning approach drawn from Te Ao Māori – the Māori world. It refers to the relationship between an older person (tuakana) and a younger person (teina). The meaning is literally “older sibling-younger sibling”. In essence it is a reciprocal relationship where siblings learn from each other. In the school setting, older students are viewed as leaders who manaaki their younger peers.

Tuakana-teina is our Catholic Character in action. The Catholic response from the Catechism to our life’s purpose is: to be in relationship with our creator, in relationship with people and in relationship with the earth (all made by God) Catechism of the Catholic Church # 232, 357, 358. Scriptures tell us to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and love your neighbour as yourself” Matthew 22: 37-39

Our guiding principles are Communion, Contemplation and Mission and tuakana-teina is an example of all these. By living tuakana-teina we build community, we take time to listen and be with each other and we enact the mission of the Catholic Church by loving our neighbour. Our Ako document tells us that success is linked to having people who support ākongā in their individual goals. Having layers of support is essential to their success; CCM Companions and tuakana-teina are integral to this success.

Our school vision statement for our ākongā is to inspire them to change the world. To do this we need to give them responsibility and opportunities for leadership at all levels. Tuakana-teina is a way for ākongā to find their voice. Everyone needs support, everyone wants to belong and have a sense of place, tuakana-teina is a practical way to achieve this.



Our Vision

Ignite the Passion: inspiring young women to change the world - me aro ki te hā o Hineahuone



Mā te tuakana ka tōtika te teina,
mā te teina ka tōtika te tuakana.

From the older sibling, the younger one learns
the right way to do things, and from the younger
sibling the older one learns to be tolerant.

Tuakana-teina is about ...

- reciprocal relationships where both tuakana and teina teach and learn from each other: teacher-student, student-teacher, teacher-teacher, student-student. This concept is known as Ako.
- developing links between senior and junior students. It improves understanding and communication between students and builds friendships.
- recognising the lived experiences of the students to promote learning, wellbeing and social wellness.
- providing a pathway for voices to be heard and stories to be told.
- opportunities for students to gain the skills of leadership that are of great benefit to them beyond the school gates (leaders don't often become leaders by themselves).
- senior students supporting their younger peers to manage day to day challenges such as homework or friendships.
- creating an environment where younger students, who will often listen to their older peers, see them as mentors and friends. At the same time older students learn about understanding, tolerance and acceptance.

