



ACHIEVEMENT . CELEBRATION . WHAKAWHANAUNGATANGA . INNOVATION, INQUIRY AND CURIOSITY/AKO . WELLBEING . INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY . MANAAKITANGA

TAURANGA SPECIAL SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

Hei ako tahi - Learning together



TABLE OF CONTENTS

About our school
Page 02

Locat
Page 03

Locations
Page 04

Our People
Page 05

Specialist Provision
Page 09

Curriculum
Page 14

Specialist Teacher Outreach Service
(STOS)
Page 15

Treaty of Waitangi
Page 17

General Information
Page 18

Contact us
Page 19



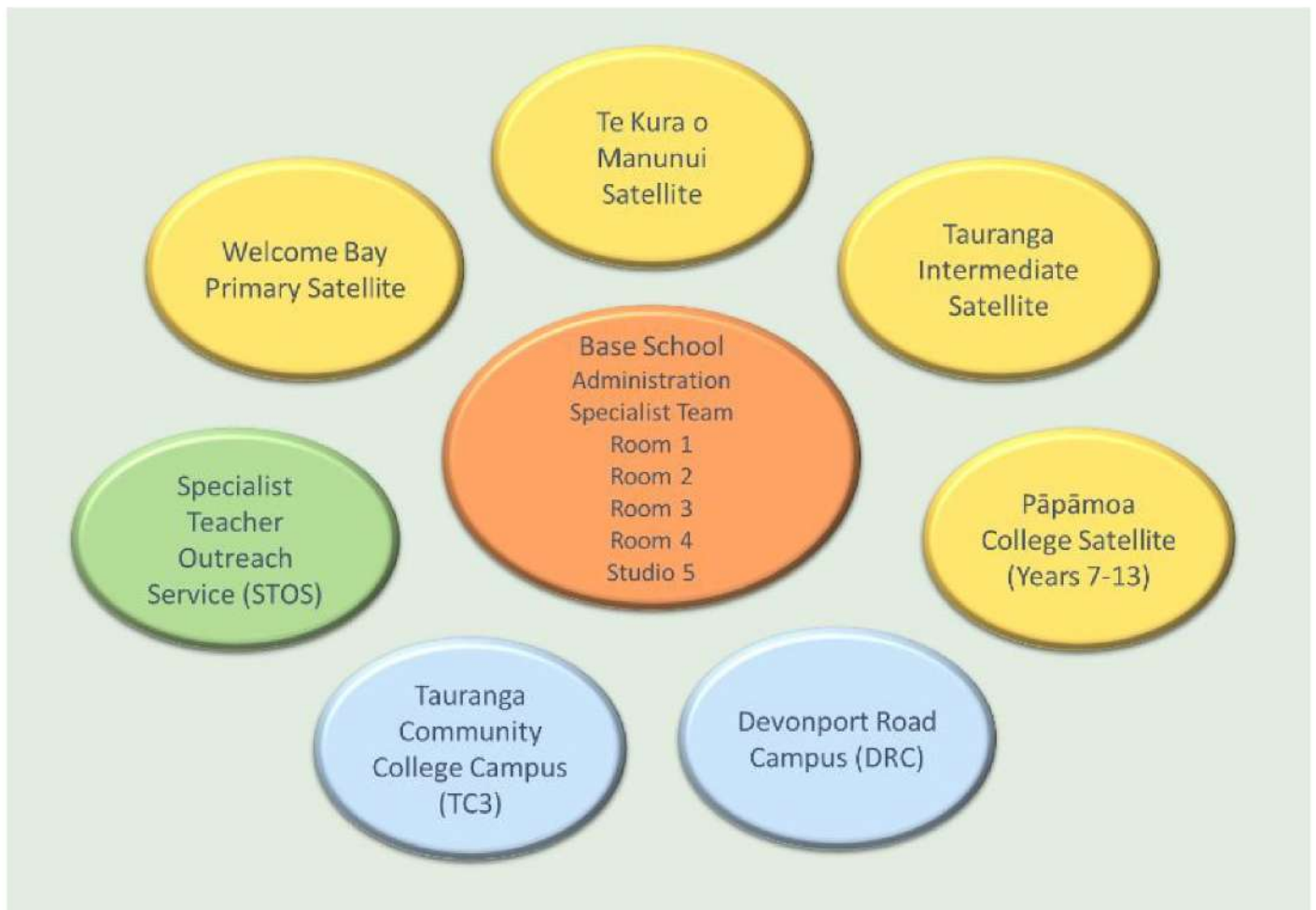
ABOUT OUR SCHOOL



Our school is located in Tauranga's beautiful Avenues and was first opened in 1965. Originally named Kaka St Special School the name was changed to Tauranga Special School in 2016. Tauranga Special School students are learners and dreamers who are accepted, valued and celebrated. They all have differences in their cognitive abilities which may impact on the way they are able to process and retain information and problem solve.



Our students may be on the autistic spectrum and/or have physical and sensory impairments or associated health issues. They are aged between 5 - 21 and receive Ongoing Resourcing Funding (ORS). Our students are supported as they develop in their confidence and independence. They have positive expectations about their future and academic goals to support their progress in all areas of learning.



LOCATIONS

— *We believe in giving you choices*

Our school is made up of our Base School with four classrooms, two offsite community classes, four satellite classes that are hosted in other schools throughout the Tauranga Area (with plans for further satellites in the future), and a Specialist Teacher Outreach Service. While our school is listed in the primary school sector we in fact cover primary, intermediate, secondary and post year 13. Whatever the best fit for your child's individual needs we have an option to provide outstanding service and educational opportunities.

VALUES

Achievement

Supporting our students to be the best possible versions of themselves.

Celebration

Acknowledging all progress no matter how small.

Whakawhanaungatanga

Healthy relationships, a sense of interconnection and belonging.

Manaakitanga

Enhancing the mana and sense of self worth of people, care and respect, hospitality.

Wellbeing

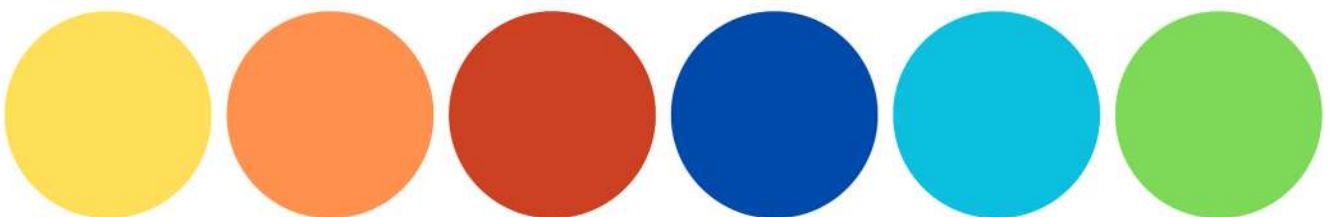
Enabling, and where possible empowering, our students to thrive.

Innovation, inquiry and curiosity/Ako

Reciprocal learning relationship, new knowledge and understanding can grow out of shared learning experiences.

Inclusive community

To include everyone and seek to be included in the community.



OUR PEOPLE

The Leadership Team



From right to left: Alice Webb - Outreach Service Leader, Andrea Andresen - Assistant Principal, Barrie Wickens - Principal, Billie Hampton Edwards - Specialist Team Leader, Dale Megson - Deputy Principal



Barrie Wickens
Principal



Sandra Peter
Presiding Member



Daisy Togo



Malcolm Poppe



Mike Nuku



Maria Veronese



Amy Bisley
Staff Rep



Barb Turley
Board Secretary

The Board of Trustees

Meetings are held monthly and are open to members of the public to observe —

Other Staff

Wider Leadership Group

Penny Gee - Within School and Professional Learning Leader

Jay Rotarangi - Within School Leader

Nicky Henderson - Professional Learning Leader

Pip Jonathan - Professional Learning Leader

Administration

Naomi McDonald - Executive Assistant

Jillian Peck - Finance Officer

Michele Hughes - Office Administrator

Serena Stock - Resource Assistant

Classroom Teachers

Base School

Room 1 - Michael Woodnut

Room 2 - Gayna Paris

Room 3 - Charlene Irving

Room 4 - Cat Banks

Studio 5 - Hayley Goodger

Satellite classrooms

Welcome Bay Primary - Nicky Henderson, Anna Dowd

Te Kura o Manunui Primary - Jay Rotarangi

Tauranga Intermediate - Cathryn Fox, Sara Thorburn

Pāpāmoa College - Jenn Banks, Kirsty Chambers, Dave Norman

Offsite Campuses

Tauranga Community College Class (TC3) - Margaret Briasco,
Brendon Oats

Devonport Road Campus (DRC) - Ilse Pretorius, Yasumi Kobayashi

Our Specialists

Speech and Language Therapy

Billie Hampton Edwards

Kit Hardy

Kathleen Faulls

Rebecca Scott

Physiotherapy

Karen Porter

Megan Munro

Kim Harris (Assistant)

Awhina Brown (Assistant)

Occupational Therapy

Kate Maclean

Erin Connolly

Amy Prouse

Marcia Martin (Assistant)

Specialist Teacher

Penny Gee (Kaiārahi Hauora, Leader of Wellbeing Pathways)

Psychology Consultant

Naomi McDonald

Psychologist

Dave Keightley-Phillips




SPECIALIST PROVISION

The class teams and the Specialist team work closely together jointly negotiating goals with the whānau through Individual Planning (IP) or Ara meetings. The goals are aligned with the New Zealand Curriculum and the Key Competencies and are embedded throughout the school day. The Specialist team has a collaborative approach to assessment, programme planning and implementation.

All students at Tauranga Special School have direct access to Speech Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy. The Therapists and Therapy Assistants provide a wide range of therapies based on the students' needs and in consultation with families and staff. A parent or carer of a student is very welcome to discuss the student's therapy needs with any of our Specialist team at any time. The Therapists, Kaiārahi Hauora, Psychologist and Therapy Assistants also form the Specialist Team. This team is coordinated by a Specialist Team Leader and provides support for students, staff and parents. Referrals to other specialists can be made as required such as our Psychologist who works with us one day each week.

We have access to local and national services to help support our students and their families. For example, for those students with complex physical and learning needs we may refer to Talklink for assessment and/or advice for communication devices. Seating to Go and Wheelchair Solutions help us obtain the correct wheelchairs and Enable is accessed for other equipment such as standing frames. MOE funding is available to support learning needs and curriculum access such as laptops, iPads and apps such as TouchChat and Clicker.

We provide a quality specialist service to our students, whānau and class teams to support successful educational outcomes.



— *Our Specialist Teams*

Speech and Language Therapy

Here at Tauranga Special School we use a Total Communication approach, using all means of communication to help our students' to understand their world and to be understood. This may include:

- Gesture and body posture
- Facial expression
- Tone of voice
- Vocalisations
- Sign Language
- Picture based systems
- Reading
- Speech
- Assistive Technology - such as high tech Voice Output Communication Aids (VOCA) to low tech core boards
- Objects of reference

The Speech and Language Therapists are an intrinsic part of each class at Base school, the Satellite classes and our offsite classes. The Therapists provide assessment and advice on all aspects of communication and eating, drinking and swallowing skills. Following assessment, and in consultation with whānau and class teams, programmes and recommendations are made.

Communication and sometimes mealtime strategies, which can include the adaptation of the environment, are used in each class to support all the students.

All new students admitted have an assessment period and individual programmes are set and adjusted as required. Students are supported around major transition periods or through transition to other schools.

Workshops and in-house training about communication and safe eating and drinking are available according to need.



Physiotherapy

The Physiotherapy team at Tauranga Special School includes a two Physiotherapists and two physiotherapy assistants.

With students who need assistance to mobilise we base our therapy on the MOVE program. Movement Opportunities via Education. Students are part of an individualised active daily physiotherapy program which enables them to:

- Acquire increased independence in sitting, standing and walking
- Learn and gain more mobility
- Experience better health and enhanced personal dignity

As well as hands on physical therapy, we use standing frames, walkers, tricycles and Riding for the Disabled to achieve our goals.

With our more mobile students, we resource and help implement programmes to increase their general fitness, coordination, balance and strength. We address any physiotherapy issues that arise. All students are involved in schoolwide goals such as walking in the community, ball skills and having a good posture.

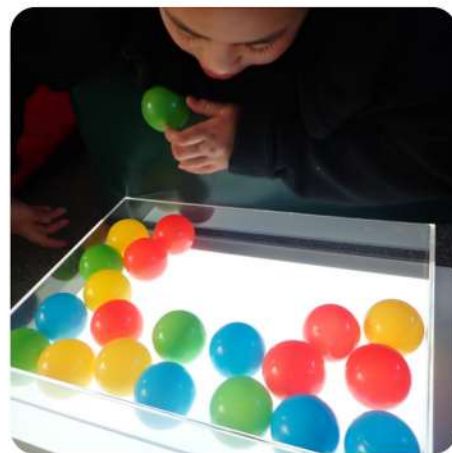
Sometimes the team works individually with a student or sometimes they run a class session. Programmes are set which classes carry out daily so physiotherapy happens each day not just when the physiotherapist is there.

We have an year round intensive swim program depending on the students needs both therapeutic and learn to swim. We have a heated pool at Base for hydrotherapy and swimming. The older students access the community pools. We follow the SNZ learn to swim program.

We send 12 students a week to RDA (Riding for the Disabled) We coordinate with RDA so our Physio and communication goals are followed there.

We may also accompany students with their family on visits to specialists, clinics or agencies to:

- Discuss medical needs and intervention
- Advocate for changes or alterations or equipment
- Provide a link between educational and medical needs
- Discuss equipment for independence



Occupational Therapy

The three Occupational Therapists and the Therapy Assistant assist students to develop in their whole of life occupations. They have a regular time slot in each classroom. Sometimes they work individually with a student, sometimes in a small group session, sometimes the therapists will work in an advisory capacity with the teacher to set up and monitor activities that are to be part of the student's regular daily / weekly programme.

This may include:

1. Life skills and personal care occupations:

- Eating/drinking
- Toileting, dressing and undressing
- Food preparation
- Shopping
- Accessing recreational activities

2. Equipment needs:

- Ministry of Health (hoists, slings, toilet supports, eating equipment, liaison regarding wheelchairs)
- Ministry of Education (assistive technology, seating)
- Other equipment (weighted blankets/vests, postural supports, hand/arm splints)

3. Programmes to develop:

- Sensory processing
- Fine motor skills and hand function

4. Work and educational occupations:

- Hand function (pencil skills, using scissors, using a switch/ mouse for the computer)
- Class routines (using visual timetables, task analysis, sequence strips)
- Sensory processing (sensory programmes, sensory diets)
- Reading (eye movements, visual perception)

Wherever possible therapy programmes are integrated into classroom routines so that best practice happens throughout the day.



The Mana Kaha Team

Mana Kaha is a term we use at Tauranga Special School, meaning “being the best we can be”.

The Mana Kaha Team is currently made up of:

- Psychologist: 1 day a week
- Specialist Team Leader (UBRS/MAPA Trainer) and Speech Language Therapist
- Kaiārahi Hauora - Leader of Pathways to Wellbeing
- Occupational Therapist
- Psychology Consultant

Our Mana Kaha team members support school-wide wellbeing initiatives and education best practice. We aim to provide cohesive staff, class team and individual student support. Examples of support include professional conversations and consultation, advice, creation and delivery of professional development, modelling of skills and strategies, delivery of programs as per therapy sessions, meeting support and more.

Schoolwide wellbeing initiatives & education best practice:

The Mana Kaha Team supports school wide initiatives and best practice, for example;

- Zones of Regulation
- TSS philosophy of Total Communication
- Universal Design for Learning - individualised, differentiated teaching and learning.

Our holistic support for ākonga is increasingly aligned with Te Whare Tapa Whā (Durie, 1982) as we journey towards embedding this wellbeing model into the ethos of our kura. The diversity of our Mana Kaha Team skill set facilitates collaborations for our kura; taking into account the needs of our students, whānau, staff and outside agencies when planning for the ongoing support and growth of our TSS community.

Staff & Class team support

Our collaborations with class teams aim to consider challenges or concerns from a solutions-based, proactive perspective. Support for class teams may include team meeting support or professional development sessions designed and delivered on an as-needs basis. Given that teams often seek support when the hauora, or wellbeing, of class teams or ākonga is under stress, our Mana Kaha team aims to work alongside and support - to highlight strengths and also identify strategies to build skills where needed.

Individual student support

Our TSS staff are highly skilled and knowledgeable, and our ongoing training for staff supports the understanding that our students communicate their needs in a variety of ways. When individual students demonstrate that their needs aren't being met, staff consider these situations carefully and make changes to support the student. If class teams need more targeted support for an individual student, they initiate a referral process, which, with whānau permission, ensures that our consultant psychologist is able to provide input regarding the students' needs and potential ways to support them. At this point, our Mana Kaha team is also engaged; offering consistent, intensive support for the student and class team - for example, using observation and consultation to then recommend, model and/or trial strategies to support the student, and facilitating ongoing collaboration and support until such time that the support for the student, and the student's skillset, appear to be aligned and their wellbeing is restored.

PROGRAMMES AND CURRICULUM

We take into account local needs, priorities and resources. The curriculum has been designed in consultation with our school's community

Our school curriculum reflects the way in which our school puts into practice the policy set out in the national curriculum statements. However, it is also flexible because of the varying and unique needs of our students.

The Individual Programme (IP) process for our students provides the strongest direction for determining our community's curriculum expectations. At Tauranga Special School we offer an integrated curriculum approach which offers a broad range of opportunities that reflect the learning styles, stages and needs of our students. Our students are not always familiar with everyday concepts which the New Zealand Curriculum (NZC) model assumes.

At Tauranga Special School the curriculum works to provide learning experiences that work toward, or move through the progressions of the NZC. This is done through relevant and meaningful contexts which support generalising and transference of concepts and skills. At secondary age, our students move from learning which is focussed on skills acquisition to a more functional focus to support their transition from school to a range of adult settings including vocational settings.

Our senior students also follow our newly developed senior curriculum which focuses on life skills and preparing students for life beyond School. We offer the Supported Preparation for Employment and Citizenship modules (SPEC) to our senior students. The modules have been written in New Zealand to support teaching the New Zealand Curriculum and the learning needed to prepare our students for life beyond school. They have been developed to create relevant and meaningful material to enhance learning and to provide opportunities for personal growth and success.

SPEC has had one of its programmes approved to qualify for the NZQA level 1 qualification NZ Certificate in Skills for Living for Supported Learners.

SPECIALIST TEACHER OUTREACH SERVICE

The Specialist Teacher Outreach Service (STOS) is a partnership between the Ministry of Education, Learning Support, and Tauranga Special School. We work in partnership with schools to provide a specialist itinerant teaching service for students enrolled in mainstream schools who receive Ongoing Resourcing Scheme (ORS) funding. Our inclusive practices aim to meet the individual learning needs of students and support their enjoyment of school. Outreach teachers are experienced specialist teachers with up to date knowledge and strategies who work as part of a student's support team.

Specialist Teachers offer their expertise to contribute to planning and implementing goals from each student's Individual Education Plan. They may work directly with the student but their primary role includes:

- assessing the student's needs
- assisting teachers to adapt the curriculum
- planning programmes
- modeling teaching strategies
- sourcing & creating resources
- liaising with outside agencies
- investigating technology & communication options
- provide support to families
- making school an enjoyable place
- assisting with social skills & building strong friendships



— *STOS Frequently asked questions*

Who pays for the service?

Schools who utilise the STOS service transfer the student's 0.1 or 0.2 ORS funding Teacher Component to Tauranga Special School.

Can parents request their child receives the STOS service?

Yes. Parents/Whānau can approach the Principal of their child's school, the Ministry of Education office in their district or contact Tauranga Special School directly.

What training do STOS teachers have?

Our Specialist teachers are fully qualified teachers experienced in working with young people with additional learning needs. They are passionate about meeting the individual needs of learners and have expertise in functional learning, curriculum adaptation, the IEP process, social skill competency, transitions and behaviour management.

What areas do you service?

Our service covers the Western Bay of Plenty from Katikati Township as far as Te Kaha.

What benefit will my child get from the STOS service?

A Specialist Teacher works in the school for half a day (High needs) or one day (Very High needs) per week for each student. The STOS teacher comes to the school to support the student and staff in their inclusive environment.

Our STOS Teachers

Alice Webb (Outreach Team Leader), Charlotte Bond, Jess Hubbard, Abha Tandon, Amie Pinson, Sharon Kemble, Heni Te Ratana, Tracey Wilson, Rachel Buller

Our service is growing and we currently service 16 schools throughout the Tauranga and Whakatane region.

For more information about STOS please contact
Alice Webb at Tauranga Special School ph 578 4424

TE TIRITI O WAITANGI

Our school acknowledges the significance of the Treaty of Waitangi as the founding document of New Zealand. We embrace our Maori community through formal and informal consultation and endeavour to be sensitive to cultural beliefs and needs through knowledge and understanding. We value and respect Te Reo Maori and Tikanga Maori and this is reflected in our classroom practice.

We are in the process of updating our Tikanga Document in consultation with the community and local Iwi.

Ko Mauao te maunga

Ko Tauranga te moana

Ko Takitimu te waka

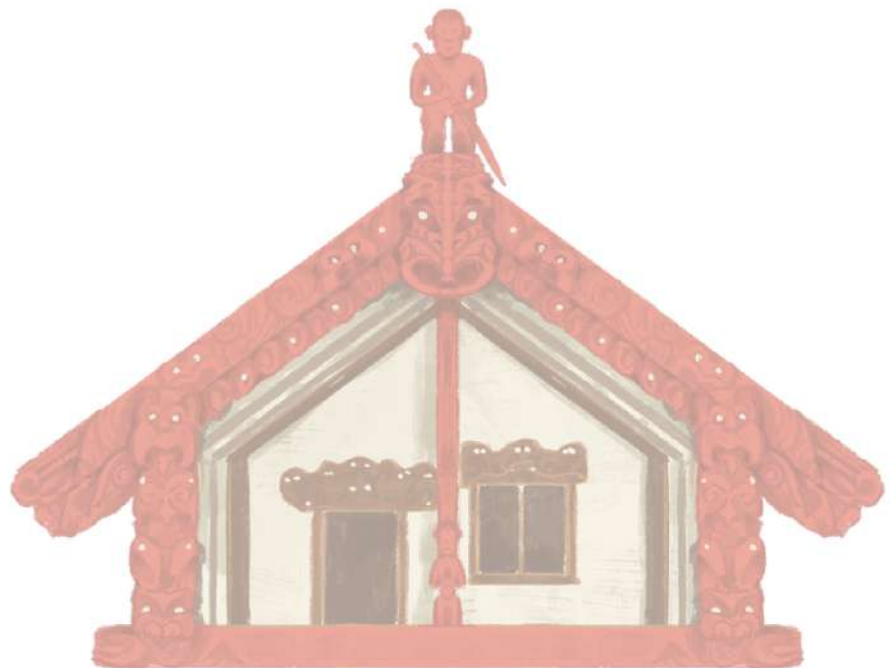
Ko Ngati Ranginui te iwi

Ko Ngai Tamarawaho te hapu

Ko Huria te marae

Because of the location of our school we affiliate to Huria Marae as Ngāti Ranginui are the historic owners of this land.

Our school has an expectation that Māori contexts and values are woven into planning and learning experiences. That our students experience the history and storied of significant places in this region. Expectations around the level of experiences, or of learning of Te Reo Māori, are adjusted according to the communication capabilities of our students.



Te Whare Rūnanga, Waitangi

GENERAL INFORMATION

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Our school policies and procedures can be found on our SchoolDocs website.

website: taurangaspecialschool.schooldocs.co.nz

login: taurangaspecialschool

password: tssdocs

ABSENCES

To report an absence please contact your child's teacher or the school office by 9am. Unexplained absences will be followed up on by our attendance officer each day.

FEES

Our school does not have any formal fees due to opting in to the Government Donation Scheme. Sites may have small charges for stationery items, cooking, or major trips

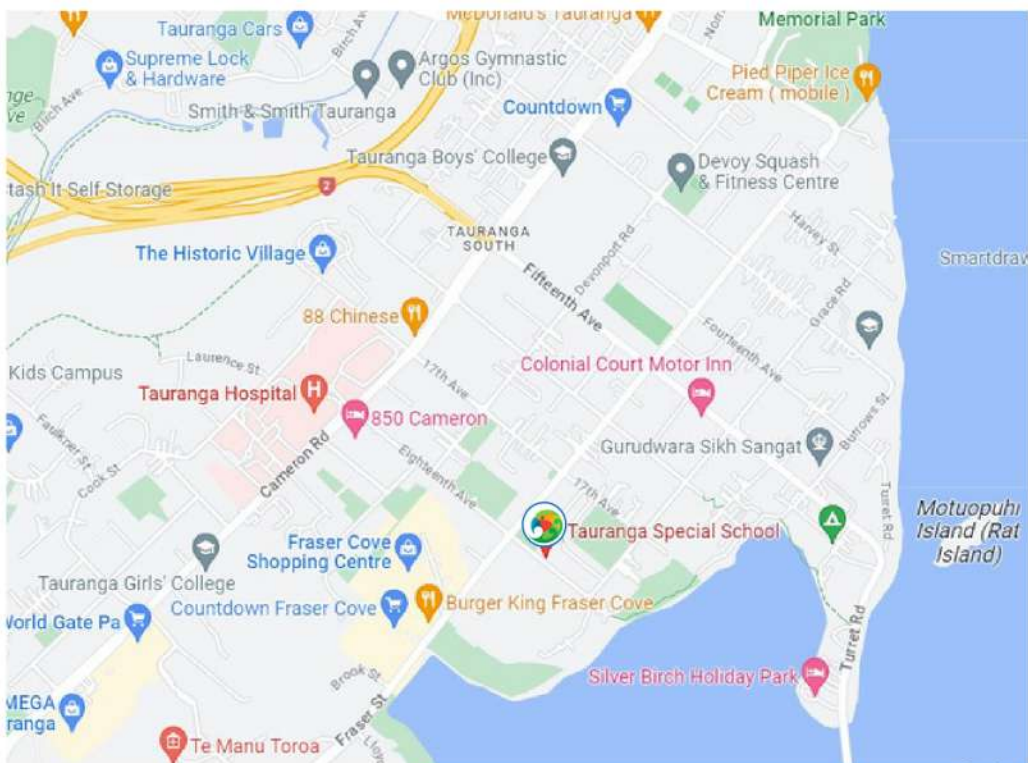
UNIFORMS

Our base school and offsite campuses do not require a uniform. For our satellite classes there is a requirement to wear the uniform of the host school.

HOURS

Our base school office is open from 8am to 4pm daily.
The school teaching day runs from 9am to 3pm. Satellites may vary.

CONTACT US



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Tauranga South
Tauranga 3112
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