

PRINCIPAL'S PĀNUI #3

Purposeful by Design

At Elim Christian College Henderson, every aspect of our school's framework has been thoughtfully crafted to nurture, mentor, and develop our ākonga. We are thrilled to share our School Structure Narrative, created at the inception of our establishment. This document details the intentional choices that define our organisational design and the significant symbolism represented in each name and group. For a more comprehensive version, please click [here](#) — below is a summarised edition:

Akomanga (Classes)

Named after native manu (birds), our akomanga reflect the nurturing care described in **Matthew 13:31-32** and **Matthew 6:26**. Just as birds **instinctively trust** and rely upon their environment, we strive for our students to implicitly trust their kaiako for **guidance, knowledge, and support**.

Tīma (Teams)

Our tīma, inspired by features of ao-mārama (the physical world), symbolize the collective journey of learning and personal growth. Rooted in scripture from **Deuteronomy 10:11** and Jeremiah 29:11, these teams represent **careful preparation, thoughtful guidance**, and the promise of **flourishing futures** for each student.

Te Whare o Rakau (Houses)

Each whare is named after a native rākau (tree), highlighting interconnectedness, stability, and growth as depicted in **John 15:5** and **Psalms 1:3**. Our whare system promotes a strong sense of **belonging**, enabling students to **thrive** within a supportive **community**.



We invite you to reflect on this narrative, which beautifully encapsulates the essence of our kura's vision and our commitment to every student's journey.



Our Commitment to Attendance: A Shared Responsibility

Regular attendance at school greatly supports student success, wellbeing, and growth. We recognize that consistent attendance can sometimes be challenging due to various circumstances, and our approach is guided by understanding, support, and partnership. Aligning with the Ministry of Education's Stepped Attendance Response (STAR), we have refined our processes to monitor attendance more carefully, while also ensuring communication remains supportive and clear.

We encourage parents and caregivers to inform us promptly when their child is unable to attend school, and we are dedicated to keeping you regularly updated about your child's attendance. These updates help us work together to identify and celebrate progress and improvements.

If attendance becomes a concern, our kura is committed to engaging with families compassionately and constructively. We aim to understand each family's unique situation and collaborate on support strategies and solutions that respect and value each student's individual needs.

For more detailed information about our attendance approach, procedures, and support available, please visit the Ministry of Education's [website](#).

Together, through mutual understanding and shared effort, we can help every student thrive and fully realise their potential. Our staff is always available to answer any questions or concerns you may have regarding attendance. We are here to provide guidance, resources, and support to ensure that each student can achieve their best. Remember, your involvement and communication are crucial to this partnership, and together, we can make a positive difference in your child's educational journey.

Yours truly,



Andy Lawrence
Tumuaki | Principal

