

Our cultural narrative

The name "Te Aratai" was gifted by Ngāi Tahu in June 2020. This name links the school to Te Ihutai, (The Avon-Heathcote Estuary) which was renowned for its abundance and variety of fish and shellfish which several nearby kāinga nohoanga (settlements) took advantage of. The estuary itself was the gateway to the vast comprehensive network of wetlands that once extended throughout the Canterbury region, with the Ōtakaro (Avon) and Ōpāwaho (Heathcote River) being the primary access routes. The "Te Aratai" name links our school to this significant route and this significant mahinga kai area, empowering Ngāi Tahu and all that it encompasses into the physical spaces, curriculum and hearts and minds moving through our kura. Te Aratai College. Pathway to the sea.



Ngā uara

Our school uara are our way of being. They are our deeply held beliefs about what is important in the education of our ākonga. We aspire to encourage and practice our uara in everything we do - from our school philosophy, through to our curriculum, classrooms and relationships. This can be expressed through the way our ākonga think, act and relate to each other.

Manaakitanga

Respecting others values and culture
Compassion and empathy for others
Student's cultures are diverse, accepted and respected

Whanaungatanga

Keeping interactions with others respectful and appropriate
Making everyone feel welcome and included
Positive relationships with all

Rangatiratanga

Believing in self
Upholding your mana and the mana of Te Aratai

Turangawaewae

Be proud to be Te Aratai
Treating Te Aratai with respect in all ways
Connected to Te Aratai—the environment and the people