

THE EONZ POSITION STATEMENT ON EOTC

1. Purpose (What we do)

1. EONZ maintains that the primary purpose of EOTC is to engage with the New Zealand curriculum outside the classroom in order to enrich the learning of students in early childhood centres, and primary and secondary schools.

EONZ embraces all the principles of *Te Whāriki He Whāriki Mātauranga mō ngā Mokopuna O Aotearoa / Early Childhood Curriculum (1996)*; *Te Marautanga o Aotearoa (2008)*; and *The New Zealand Curriculum (2007)*; including a commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi and cultural diversity, inclusive communities, coherence in learning across the curriculum, and future focussed issues such as sustainability, citizenship, enterprise and globalisation.

EONZ supports the values outlined in the above documents including excellence, innovation, diversity, equity, community, cultural and ecological sustainability, integrity, and respect.

2. Why we do it (benefits for individuals, communities, environments)

2. EONZ is cognisant of research (for example see TKI website <http://eotc.tki.org.nz/eotc-home>) that supports well-structured EOTC experiences. Studies have shown that educationally sound EOTC experiences can enrich student learning across the curriculum. The establishment of positive relationships with teachers and peers in places of significance can foster a sense of belonging to communities and environments that is essential to on-going learning.

3. How we do it (Pedagogy/practice/partnerships)

3. EOTC programme design should be informed by sound pedagogical principles as highlighted in the New Zealand Curriculum. EONZ maintains that EOTC should at all times occur within the framework of the EOTC Guidelines: *Bringing the Curriculum Alive (2009)*.

EONZ actively supports partnerships with and between teachers, schools and the community. EONZ seeks to work collaboratively with other sector organisations with the goal to improve EOTC in Aotearoa New Zealand.

4. Where we do it (Place)

4. EONZ supports place based and responsive approaches to EOTC that seek to: strengthen the understanding that students have of their local communities and environments (as well as those further afield), and engender a sense of obligation to care for those communities and environments. To achieve these goals, EONZ encourages action oriented experiential education that explores individual and collective relationships to places to foster vibrant communities and healthy environments.

5. Reducing our footprint

5. EONZ is committed to reducing the impact it has on the planet. This commitment includes reducing the impacts of the executive board, and all outputs of the organisation including production of resources and professional development. For example, EONZ is committed to providing resources on-line to reduce the impact on forests, and increasing the provision of local opportunities for PD to reduce the need to travel.