



Counsellor Support for our School Community - Pilot Project

Kia ora whānau

Primary schools in the Motu Kairangi Kāhui Ako, which at present do not have counselling support, are commencing a pilot student counselling service with [Skylight Trust](#). This is possible because of funding the Kāhui Ako has been able to secure.

WELLBEING

Our objective is to provide support for as many families/students as possible within our schools. The idea of mauri (life force) is central to counselling, to protect and enhance the mana and wellbeing of children and their whānau.

Counsellors will play an important role in supporting learner wellbeing. They will work closely with schools and whānau, wherever possible, to get the right support in place at the right time.

HOW WILL COUNSELLING WORK IN OUR SCHOOL?

Our school has designed our counselling services to best meet the needs of our learners.

We have developed a referral process that requires parental consent and the possibility for parents, in some situations, to make direct referral requests to Skylight Trust. We expect most referrals will come from the school.

We have developed a care team that will review anonymised applications to ensure we support both families in the greatest need and ensure all schools have access to this resource. This is made up of two local Principals and one Skylight Trust manager.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT

We want you to be involved, as much as possible, so we can work together to get the best support for your child.

Our school counsellor service will:

- Be safe, honest, and trustworthy
- Listen carefully, be respectful and value your culture, language and identity
- Provide this service in safe spaces at school or in the Skylight Trust office
- Take action if you or your child is in danger

You will have an opportunity to meet the counsellor and discuss how this support can work for your child. This can be online or face to face.

We will uphold you and your child's rights to privacy and keep all information safe.

Who do I contact for more information?

In the first instance, you might like to discuss counselling with our school Principal, John Western.

or

call Skylight on 0800 299 100

Email: clinicalcoordinator@skylight.org.nz

“Mou, moku, mo nga tangata katoa”

“For you, for me and for all people”
