# Operational Policy: Te Tiriti O Waitangi (NAG 6)

## Blind & Low Vision Education Network NZ

## Statement of Intent:

This policy confirms the commitment of the Blind & Low Vision Education Network NZ (BLENNZ) to uphold its obligations and responsibilities to forge and sustain a bicultural relationship with tangata whenua (people of the land) in accordance with the articles and principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

The two parties to this bicultural relationship are tangata whenua and tangata tiriti. For the BLENNZ Network tangata whenua are ākonga kāpo Māori (Tamariki and rangatahi) and their whānau (represented by Kāpō Māori Aotearoa, Te Whānau o Homai and Kaumatua me nga Kuia o Manurewa Marae) and tangata tiriti are the Board of Trustees (represented by the Principal and staff).

BLENNZ will uphold the values of:

* Whanaungatanga
* Manaakitanga
* Awhinatanga
* Kotahitanga
* Ako

This policy underpins all other BLENNZ policies.

## Policy Requirements:

1. BLENNZ acknowledges and observes the spirit of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in all policies, procedures and organisational structures.

2. The rights of the tangata whenua and tangata tiriti are upheld, and these will be provided for in a culturally safe environment. Consultation between the two parties will take place with respect to present and future services, and agreed decisions implemented.

3. All ākonga kāpo Māori supported by BLENNZ have the right to be educated and cared for in a manner appropriate to their cultural needs.

4. All staff will observe this bicultural policy and act in a culturally sensitive manner. BLENNZ will provide opportunities to develop knowledge of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and increase bicultural awareness.

## Supporting Documents:

[Ministry of Culture and Heritage Website](https://mch.govt.nz/treatyofwaitangi)

[Website: Government and the Treaty of Waitangi](https://www.newzealandnow.govt.nz/living-in-nz/history-government/the-treaty-of-waitangi)

[NZ History website: Māori and English Translations of the Treaty of Waitangi](https://nzhistory.govt.nz/politics/treaty/read-the-treaty/english-text)

  25 September 2019

Approved: …………………………………. Date: ………………………

 (Principal)