Job Advertisement & Position Description

Role Title: Specialist Teacher – School Psychologist | Social Work & Student Wellbeing

School: Te Rau Horopito

Tenure: Full-time / Part-time, Permanent or Fixed-term

Starting Date: Ideally 27th January (negotiable)

Remuneration: Based on the provisions of the relevant Collective Agreement as assessed by the Salary Assessment Unit of the Ministry of Education.

Incentive: Eligible for Teacher Bonding Scheme (up to $40,000 over five years in addition to relevant teacher salary scale). For further details, please review the Teacher Bonding Scheme terms.

Job Description: Co-designed role — final job description tailored with the successful applicant.

Job Advertisement

About Us

Te Rau Horopito is a brand new kura which opened at the start of 2026. This is a new role we are creating, which we will design and refine with the successful applicant. If you love an adventure and setting up something new (and meaningful) from the start, we'd love to hear from you.

At Te Rau Horopito, we are committed to holistic education that supports the learning, social-emotional health, and safety of our tamariki. We build strong pathways between school, home, and our wider community to ensure every child thrives. We greatly value learner variability and uniqueness, striving to provide every resource required so learners are deeply engaged, have a sense of purpose, and feel connected to the world. If you care about the wellbeing of young people and supporting them early, we'd love to hear from you.

About the Role

We are seeking a certificated teacher with qualifications or registration in Social Work, Psychology, or Counselling. Functioning in a dual capacity akin to a Social Worker in Schools (SWiS), you will use ecological and developmental approaches

to support learners, whānau, and teams supporting them. Working closely with tamariki, whānau, and community agencies, you will address social, emotional, and behavioral barriers to learning.

Key Responsibilities

- Gather information through effective ecological assessment processes of the learner within their environments.
- Design and implement strength-based interventions at individual, classroom, and whole-school levels.
- Liaise directly with kaiako, whānau, community agencies, health services, and Ministry of Education supports to provide wraparound care.
- Conduct one-on-one, small-group, and classroom-wide social-emotional wellbeing support.
- Advocate for student safety, inclusion, and positive social outcomes in alignment with culturally safe practice and Te Tiriti o Waitangi provisions.

Key Requirements

- Current New Zealand Teacher Registration / Certification.
- A Master's degree in Psychology, Counselling, or Social Work.
- Current registration with the New Zealand Psychologists Board, New Zealand Association of Counsellors, or Social Workers Registration Board.
- Strong working knowledge of child protection, trauma-informed practice, and community support networks.
- Exceptional relationship-building skills with tamariki, whānau, and staff.

How to Apply

Send the following to **admin@terauhoropito.school.nz**

- CV,
- Cover letter,
- The names of three referees
- A video (no longer than two minutes) telling us why you'd be a great person to be our very first Specialist Teacher– School Psychologist | Social Work & Student Wellbeing
- Completed application form
- Applications close: 9th December, 2026, 4pm.

All of these documents can be found on our school website https://terauhoropito.school.nz/vacancies/

Position Description

Field	Details
Job Title	Specialist Teacher – School Psychologist | Social Work & Student Wellbeing
Reports To	Principal / Senior Leadership Team (SLT)
Key Relationships	Teaching Staff, Learning Support Coordinator (LSC), Leader of Inclusion, Tamariki & Whānau, External Agencies (Oranga Tamariki, Health Services, Community Providers), Ministry of Education, Resource Teachers of Learning and Behaviour (RTLB)
Remuneration	**Remuneration:** Based on the provisions of the relevant Collective Agreement as assessed by the Salary Assessment Unit of the Ministry of Education. **Incentive:** Eligible for Teacher Bonding Scheme (up to $40,000 over five years in addition to relevant teacher salary scale).

Purpose of the Role

To deliver effective educational instruction while embedding educational and developmental psychology and social work principles. This role bridges classroom instruction with pastoral care by delivering early interventions, whānau advocacy, and targeted social-emotional support to improve educational engagement and tamariki wellbeing.

Core Responsibilities

1. School Psychology, Social Work & Early Intervention
    - Support teaching colleagues and whānau to understand tamariki strengths and developmental needs across settings.
    - Plan and conduct ecological assessments for referred tamariki facing social, emotional, or behavioral challenges.
    - Develop, implement, and evaluate goal-focused individual and group support plans.
    - Monitor and review interventions against agreed outcomes, modifying practice in response to ongoing reflection and data.
2. **Whānau Engagement & Agency Collaboration**
    - Facilitate connection and advocacy between school, home/whānau, and external community support services.
    - Build trusting partnerships with parents and whānau to ensure home-school continuity.
    - Liaise with pastoral networks, social services, and care agencies when higher-tier support is needed.
3. **Professional, Ethical & Evidence-Based Practice**
    - Uphold and practice in accordance with relevant professional standards, competencies, and ethical codes.
    - Uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi commitments, working responsively with the cultural identities of all whānau.
    - Participate regularly in professional supervision and peer support, maintaining reflective, evidence-based practice.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Key Area	**Performance Indicator**
Assessment & Planning	Timely assessment, goal setting, and intervention delivery for referred tamariki.
Student Progress	Measurable improvement in school engagement, attendance, and social wellbeing outcomes.

Partnerships	Strong, positive working relationships established with whānau, staff, and external community providers.