

Culturally Powered Curriculum: AI supercharging our Aotearoa Classrooms

At Rotokawa School, mana whenua stories are central to our bi-annual curriculum, making learning culturally powerful, meaningful, and engaging — and now, this is elevated through the integration of AI. This presentation will demonstrate how our kura has developed a customised Local Curriculum ChatGPT Bot that reduces workload, saves teachers time, enhances curriculum integration, and honours the rich narratives gifted by mana whenua.

Through collaboration and intentional design, we embedded the New Zealand Curriculum/Te Mārautanga o Aotearoa and our kura documentation into a BOT, alongside local pūrākau and pakiwaitara. The result is a practical tool that generates tailored overviews, lessons, resources, vocabulary, assessment tools, and EOTC documentation — all grounded in our whenua, whakapapa, and the stories entrusted to us by mana whenua.

This mahi reflects the theme of Promotion of Te Ao Māori in Education, ensuring local narratives are authentically integrated into learning. For kaiako, the addition of AI has enabled faster, more coherent, consistent, and culturally responsive planning, allowing teachers to focus on delivering high-quality learning experiences.

It also reflects Innovation. By applying an 80% AI, 20% human input model, we have created pathways for tamariki to connect deeply with their identity while preparing for a digitally fluent future. Tamariki ask deeper questions, make stronger connections, and share their learning with confidence and pride.

At this workshop, principals and school leaders will go away with:

- A clear understanding of how AI in Education maximises teacher time by generating and supporting administration through ChatGPT.
- Clarity in how AI in Education deepens curriculum design by extending ideas not previously considered.
- Practical strategies for integrating AI in ways that honour Te Ao Māori through a local curriculum built from mana whenua stories.

Attendees will leave with a deeper understanding of how AI supports teachers and leaders across curriculum, assessment, reporting, and EOTC.