## Case study 15: Te Kura Māori o Ngā Tapuwae – upholding mana and community connection

Te Kura Māori o Ngā Tapuwae is a special character kura based in Māngere, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland. The kura, which has young people from years 1-13, has a strong focus on young people connecting with their language, culture, identity and wider community. The kura has high levels of trust with their ākonga and whānau, which means when difficult conversations arise, they lean on these relationships to find ways forward. They ensure that young people have a deep understanding of who they are, their responsibility to their community, and their whakapapa, which is a solid base from which to build media and information literacy and digital citizenship. The school acknowledges that young people need to have trust and relationships with their teachers to discuss what is occurring online and feel comfortable that they won't be judged or treated unfairly if they make mistakes or do something wrong.

A key part of these conversations is the principles and values shared by young people, teachers, and the wider school. The focus is on maintaining the mana of all involved and working alongside ākonga and their whānau to whakatika (make things right) and maintain strong connections and relationships. Individuals are part of a collective, including their whānau and their school. Young people need to see themselves and others as part of this collective and therefore deserving of respect and mana enhancing ways of being and interactions. The kura has robust and high functioning discussions across all age groups and with the wider school whānau about the negative impacts of media, including how they can navigate disparaging and racist statements that they see online and offline and endure on a daily basis. The kura uplifts ākonga and the wider school whānau, highlighting how these media representations are not reflective of them, and they are far better than these portrayals. These discussions also occur in the monthly hui with parents and whānau, ensuring that the whole community is uplifted, supported, and included.