

Case Studies

How Real Teachers around Aotearoa use Online Kapa Haka Daily

Year 6 teacher- Mairangi Bay School

Q: How do you use Online Kapa Haka in your classroom each week?

We use it all the time in our school. I use it to teach our Kapa Haka group new haka and waiata. We have a dedicated Te Ao Maori slot within our school each week for 40 minutes, where each class is working through new waiata, haka, modules and games. We use it in our Hui Ata each morning for waiata and games. It really helps have specific times that you are dedicated to using it, then students get in the routine too.

Q: What advice would you give to a teacher who's just starting out?

Just jump in and start! It can be quite overwhelming with starting and implementing, especially as we want to teach our tamariki correctly. The hardest part I found was starting. Explain to your students that you are learning together, and Online Kapa Haka is there to help you all learn together. Be open to making mistakes and not being perfect. Talk with other teachers at your school, lots of our teachers co-teach te reo Maori, just so they have a support person in the room to help each other.

Q: Do you have a favourite video, activity, or trick that works really well with your students?

Our students love the warm up games the most! Especially Takahia Paki, and Tahī, Rua, Tahī. It helps getting them moving, focused and in the right mindset to learn.

We have school wide waiata that we are all learning at the same time, and then perform at school assemblies which helps students feel success and pride in their learning.

Q: Anything else you'd like to add to inspire others?

Bite the bullet and start implementing it weekly into your programme. But also go slow and don't overwhelm yourself. Our school chooses 1 new waiata that everyone learns for the term, so people don't get overwhelmed trying to learn everything at once. It is such an amazing resource once you get in the habit of using it. We have had amazing feedback from teachers and students.

—

Mixed level teacher- St Bernards

Q: How do you use Online Kapa Haka in your classroom each week?

I cover CRT. This time is a combination of the Arts (drama or music) and Te reo. I use it in the Te Reo spot for all the different year levels. Another teacher at school using it as part of her morning routine.

Q: What advice would you give to a teacher who's just starting out?

Don't worry, it is all laid out for you.

Q: Do you have a favourite video, activity, or trick that works really well with your students?

The kids like the warm up games like Whitu. Once we learn from the video, I go through through these slower with the kids and they have turns being up the front and leading them. I keep moving around the round while the video is on to help keep students focused. My classes don't like standing too long, so I just to break up standing and sitting time during the session else I get complaints.

Q: Anything else you'd like to add to inspire others?

Justin really breaks everything down, I love the multiple videos per song to teach the meaning, words, music, actions separately.

—

Mixed level teacher - St Bernards

Q: How do you use Online Kapa Haka in your classroom each week?

I use it for whole school sessions to increase knowledge of songs and kapa haka, and to help us prepare for performances. We can't afford a kapa haka tutor but now we don't need one.

Q: What advice would you give to a teacher who's just starting out?

I come from Oldham in the north of England - if I can get 55 kids performing in unison well enough to perform for our Kahui Ako then anyone can. Just give it a go, you'll see how easy and supportive the videos are.

Q: Do you have a favourite video, activity, or trick that works really well with your students?

Learning alongside them and being prepared to make mistakes as we go.

Q: Anything else you'd like to add to inspire others?

We don't have many Maori children in the school but it has been lovely to see their pride when we use the resource as a school and so to see how confident they have become to be leaders.

—

Y 3-4 Teacher - Henderson Primary School

Q: How do you use Online Kapa Haka in your classroom each week?

We learn a new waiata each week and sing every morning after our karakia, school pepeha and roll call. I use the modules to tie into our term topic and we study those in the afternoon.

Q: What advice would you give to a teacher who's just starting out?

Let Justin do the teaching and you participate as a student alongside your class. Show your students that you are a learner too and how much you love to learn about the Māori culture.

Q: Do you have a favourite video, activity, or trick that works really well with your students?

As a fun activity I use Wheel of Names to randomly pick a student who can choose a waiata for the whole class to sing at the end of the day or when we have a spare few minutes.

Q: Anything else you'd like to add to inspire others?

You can pick and choose what to do, or you can follow along with the modules - there's no set way you have to use the website. Have fun and your students will have fun too

—

Year 7-8 Teacher Omakau School

Q: How do you use Online Kapa Haka in your classroom each week?

Each morning at 9am we have our online Kapa haka session. We spend 20 - 30 minutes each day. We have been working our way through the Year 5/6 lessons. We have nearly completed all of them so will move onto the Year 7/8 lessons next. I have a Y6-8 class.

I have also used the waiata and haka videos in my school Kapa Haka lessons. We have chosen a couple to learn for our Polyfest performance.

Q: What advice would you give to a teacher who's just starting out?

The videos are amazing and very easy to follow. Some lessons fit well into the time frame and some lessons I split over a few days if the content is a bit more intense to learn.

Q: Do you have a favourite video, activity, or trick that works really well with your students?

The students love the videos such as Tahi Rua Tahi and Takahia Paki so we often do these at the start or end of a lesson. We will write notes into our Te Reo book to look back on to help us remember and practice.

Q: Anything else you'd like to add to inspire others?

Just start at the beginning of the year level lessons and go for it! I have been learning along with my students and am no way an expert. My students enjoy these lessons each day. They love the presenters and are definitely getting better with their pronunciation. We look forward to seeing more modules open up as they are completed.

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Year 0-2 teacher Hikurangi School

Q: How do you use Online Kapa Haka in your classroom each week?

Waiata, our tamariki love the waiata especially the action waiata

Q: What advice would you give to a teacher who's just starting out?

Just turn it on and give it a go! Can't go wrong with online Kapa haka, the kupu are there, the actions are there, the tune is there all you need to do is turn it on and give it a go, your tamariki will love it

Q: Do you have a favourite video, activity, or trick that works really well with your students?

I like all the action waiata

Q: Anything else you'd like to add to inspire others?

It's perfect for teachers that are nervous or shy or unsure of Kapa haka, everything is provided you just need to give time in your classroom

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Year 5-6 teacher Leigh School

Q: How do you use Online Kapa Haka in your classroom each week?

Every morning we have paepae to start our day. This looks like 4 children picked each day (rostered), one introduces our morning, does karakia. Next person thanks the first speaker and acknowledges the teacher then does their mihi, next child does mihi 4th child introduces waiata. Whole class stands for waiata (Justin's videos). Wednesday is new waiata wednesday so we learn a new one and then sing that every day for the week and it gets added into our waiata rotations. After that we do roll call and in roll call is often a question answer in te reo. We then follow with the date in te reo or add on to something new we have been using. Justin's videos are great for adding in new vocab or questions/answers.

Q: What advice would you give to a teacher who's just starting out?

Watch some videos first. Start small and add in more when you feel ready. Just basic question/answer or just start with waiata. You can learn alongside the tamariki.

Q: Do you have a favourite video, activity, or trick that works really well with your students?

They love the warm-up fun videos, it really gets them going. They love routine, so enjoy the same question/answer each day. They like to challenge themselves.

Q: Anything else you'd like to add to inspire others?

Just relax about having to know everything, just learn alongside the tamariki and have fun.

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Y 0-2 Teacher - Glendene School

Q: How do you use Online Kapa Haka in your classroom each week?

We sing selected waiata along with the video during morning class Paepae Wā Mihi. We are learning poi after morning tea using Rona videos. The ākonga are requesting Justin to make more movies like the Matariki Camping Collection as they love those videos. We are watching Various clips at the end of the day. Basically it's all great.

Q: What advice would you give to a teacher who's just starting out?

Just quietly give it a go in your classroom with your students. Let them know you're a learner just like them.

Q: Do you have a favourite video, activity, or trick that works really well with your students?

The full sing throughs are my favourites. The funny bits are the kids favourite.