Inclusive Education

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
TE TĀHUHU O TE MĀTAURANGA

Provide support systems for students and whānau

A suggestion for implementing the strategy 'Design inclusive school-wide systems and processes' from the Guide: LGBTIQA+ students

Includes:

Develop shared expectations

Consider the needs of students and whānau

Strategies to support students

Support peer-to-peer groups

Provide information on support agencies

Useful resources

Develop shared expectations

Define together with students and whānau the building blocks of an inclusive culture.

Ask, what would we expect to see, feel, have access to?

- ✔ Develop comprehensive, safe-school policies that include the voice of whānau who identify as LGBTIQA+.
- ✔ Engage in a collaborative process with students, parents, and whānau to develop school policies and systems.
- ✔ Consult with parents and whānau in ways appropriate to each school community, such as surveys, hui, fono, or parent meetings.
- ✔ Have clear processes in place to ensure families receive assistance should issues of harassment or bullying occur.
- ✔ Create safe spaces and access to an informed, knowledgeable, and supportive person.
- ✔ Provide easy access to relevant materials, resources, and support services.
- ✔ Provide whānau with reassurances of confidentiality and respect for their privacy.

Inclusive Education
From
Guide: Supporting LGBTIQA+ students

Strategy: Design inclusive school-wide systems and processes

Suggestion: Provide support systems for students and whānau

Date
19 May 2024
Link
inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-lgbtiqa-students/provide-support-systems-for-students-and-whanau

Consider the needs of students and whānau

Source:
Outline
http://www.outline.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Families-of-LGBTQ.pdf

View full image (501 KB)

Strategies to support students

Adolescence is a time when identity, self-knowledge, social skills and independence are being developed.

It can be a challenging and painful time for students who lack access to information and support.

Key strategies to support students include:

- ✔ delivering school-wide, comprehensive sexuality education
- ✔ providing health education across all year levels
- ✔ integrating relevant content across curriculum areas
- ✔ providing easy access to appropriate and relevant information
- ✔ using supportive, gender-inclusive images in posters and advertising for school events
- ✔ providing access to adults who understand health and medical issues
- ✔ ensuring that all students are aware of key staff members they can approach for support
- ✔ reassuring students of confidentiality and respect for their privacy
- ✔ providing opportunities to ask questions anonymously
- ✔ working in partnership with transgender students to ensure their transition is supported, respected, and affirmed
- ✔ responding sensitively to time out of school for attending medical appointments
- ✔ developing supportive plans to ensure students are able catch up on assignments and learning missed due to outside-school appointments.

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Support peer-to-peer groups

Source:
Inside Out – Resources for schools
https://www.insideout.org.nz/resources/

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Provide information on support agencies

Introduce students and whānau to people and agencies that can provide support.

- ✔ RainbowYOUTH – provide support for friends and family of queer and gender-diverse youth.
- ✔ InsideOUT – an organisation that provides support for young people of minority sexualities and genders.
- ✔ OUTLindeNZ – a helpline staffed by self-accepting LGBTIQA+ people who have trained to help others over the phone with issues related to sexual identity.
- ✔ Family Planning – an organisation that provides sexual and reproductive health care to people of any gender or sexual orientation.
- ✔ Village Collective – an organisation that supports and equips Pacific youth, families, and communities with resources and information related to sexual health and wellbeing.
- ✔ The I'm Local Project (RainbowYOUTH) – a regional directory of queer and gender-diverse support groups throughout Aotearoa.
- ✔ ITANZ – a New Zealand registered charitable trust that provides information, education and training for organisations and professionals who provide services to intersex people and their families.

Useful resources

Rainbow families: School support guide

Read time: 59 min

Booklet for teachers, parents and caregivers and schools about how they can best support LGBTIQA+ families. Developed by the Australian group, Rainbow Families.

Publisher: Rainbow Families

Visit website

For families of young people who are queer, lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual or questioning

Read time: 11 min

This brochure offers support for New Zealand families of gender- and sexuality-diverse young people. It includes parent voices, links to support groups, commonly asked questions, and tips for parents.

Publisher: Outline

Download PDF

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) parents and their children: Support strategies for educators

Read time: 11 min

Article outlining strategies for creating safe schools for children of LGBT parents. Published by the National Association of School Psychologists (US).

Publisher: National Association of School Psychologists

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