

# Empower students

Promote a strengths-based lens that focuses on empowerment, restoration, and relationships rather than a deficit lens that focuses on power, punishment, and control.

For example:

- Mana-enhancing, restorative, problem-solving, inclusive rather than punitive, blaming, labelling, problem-finding, excluding.
- A holistic lens that focuses on recognising potential, skills, and the essence of the whole child, rather than an accusing lens that focuses on disobedience, defiance, and the behaviour of the child.
- An ecological lens that focuses on the whole child, their history, whakapapa, and whānau, and the relationships in the class, rather than an individual focus with a snapshot perspective of the present event and the individual child's behaviour or response.
- A circular process of restoration, rather than a linear process of blame.
- Cultural approaches using the big picture, achieving balance and restoring mana, and relational trust, rather than clinical approaches looking at the small picture, solving crises, regaining power, and leaving relational mistrust.
- Behaviour is seen in the context of overall wellbeing, rather than in the context of authority and control.

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