

Honour and value te ao Māori

A suggestion for implementing the strategy 'Commit to whole-school approaches' from the Guide: [Behaviour and learning](#)

Includes:

- Build relationships with tangata whenua
- Give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- Value tikanga Māori in the classroom
- Support ākonga to enjoy and express their cultural identity
- Design culturally responsive learning contexts
- Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Behaviour and learning](#)

Strategy: [Commit to whole-school approaches](#)

Suggestion: [Honour and value te ao Māori](#)

Date

15 June 2026

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/behaviour-and-learning/honour-and-value-te-ao-maori

Build relationships with tangata whenua

At Frimley School, whānau Māori provide support and guidance to senior leaders, co-designing a place-based curriculum and connecting tamariki with their hapū and iwi.



Video hosted on Youtube http://youtu.be/7Ti_nrvbZSU

Closed Captions

Source:

[The Prime Minister's Education Excellence Awards](#)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Ti_nrvbZSU&t=7s

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Give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi



Source:

Tātai Aho Rau CORE Education

https://core-ed.org/en_NZ/free-resources/cultural-capability-resources/

[View full image \(91 KB\)](#)

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Value tikanga Māori in the classroom

Teachers explain the need to incorporate te ao Māori, tikanga, and te reo Māori into learning contexts to include and engage all ākonga.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/113877060>

[View transcript](#)

Source:

[He reo tupu, He reo ora \(NZ\)](#)

<http://hereoora.tki.org.nz/Videos/How-to-plan-for-te-reo-Maori/Tikanga-Maori-in-the-classroom>

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Support ākongā to enjoy and express their cultural identity

Article three guarantees Māori oritētanga (equality). Where Pākehā symbols of status in uniform are expected (e.g., a tie), ākongā Māori should be able wear Māori symbols of status instead (e.g., taonga).

The Human Rights Commission

Source:

[School uniform guidelines – Te Kāhui Tika Tangata | The Human Rights Commission](#)

https://www.hrc.co.nz/files/5916/5344/0946/School_uniform_guidelines_WEB_VERSION.pdf

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Design culturally responsive learning contexts

Creating culturally responsive learning contexts and co-constructing learning enables every student to bring their experiences into the classroom context.

- Provide opportunities for ākonga Māori who speak te reo Māori to teach the class some basic vocabulary.
- Include holidays and festivals that are important to your ākonga Māori in learning activities.
- Establish classroom communication practices that include te reo Māori.
- Support ākonga Māori to understand new vocabulary or unfamiliar instructions by providing visual cues and translating key words into te reo Māori.
- Identify how you can specifically include a Māori component into curriculum topics.
- Engage with the Māori school community and whānau to bring their knowledge and expertise into the school.
- Take the time to learn how to pronounce your students' names correctly. Ask students to say their name, listen carefully, and repeat it until you know it. Model the correct pronunciation of students' names to the class so that all students use the correct pronunciation.

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Useful resources



Ka Hikitia – Ka Hāpaitia

Ka Hikitia is a Ministry of Education and cross-agency strategy for the education sector. It sets out the work to achieve system shifts in education and support Māori learners and their whānau, hapū and iwi to achieve excellent and equitable outcomes.

[Visit website](#)



Unpacking biases

This inclusive education workshop is designed to stimulate thinking and discussion about how our assumptions impact the way we teach and how our ākonga learn. It helps participants to engage in critical reflection to surface and identify implicit biases.

[Visit website](#)



Broadening teachers' perspectives

Read time: 2 min

In this video, Paul Enright talks about how their school has broadened teacher perspectives as they engage with tangata whenua and value Māori history.

[Visit website](#)



Te Kōtahitanga – Changing Māori educational experiences

Video about Te Kōtahitanga – improving cultural iconography in classrooms, incorporating pedagogy that is responsive to the culture of students and providing contexts for learning based on students' prior knowledge and experiences.

[Visit website](#)



Cultural capability resources

A set of visual tools to support your cultural capability journey.

Publisher: Tātai Aho Rau Core Education

[Visit website](#)

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