

Strengthen a supportive peer culture

A suggestion for implementing the strategy
'Establish a respectful class climate' from the
Guide: [Inclusive classroom culture](#)

Includes:

- Encourage peer support
- Develop shared expectations
- Discuss friendships
- Develop peer tutoring approaches
- Strengthen collaborative strategies
- Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Developing an inclusive classroom culture](#)

Strategy: [Establish a respectful class climate](#)

Suggestion: [Strengthen a supportive peer culture](#)

Date

05 June 2026

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/developing-an-inclusive-classroom-culture/strengthen-a-supportive-peer-culture

Encourage peer support

Recognise and value the practical support peers can give to each other.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/61762057>

Closed Captions

Source:

[Enabling e-Learning \(NZ\)](#)

<http://elearning.tki.org.nz/Teaching/Inclusive-classrooms/Universal-Design-for-Learning/Partnership-with-peers-supports-effective-access-to-learning>

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Develop shared expectations

Promote interactions that support a positive peer culture.

Agree with your students on the behaviours that will help ensure a safe and respectful learning environment.

Consider how you will:

- collaborate and agree on behaviours and expectations with your students
- support students to understand the language and words used within the expectations, for example use pictures, words, and diagrams
- plan to prompt or remind students of expectations prior to learning activities
- display expectations so they are easily accessible as a tool to support student self management.

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Discuss friendships

An animated video to support junior classes to talk about friendships.



Video hosted on Youtube <http://youtu.be/qac8BPXMUtg>

No captions or transcript

Source:

[Start Empathy \(UK\)](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qac8BPXMUtg>

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Develop peer tutoring approaches

The advantages of peer tutoring.

Benefits for tutees

- more individual teaching
- gains in learning
- gains in social/relationship skills, for example, communicating, accepting help
- improvement in attitude towards learning
- improvement in self-esteem.

Benefits for tutors

- practice/reinforcement of skills at earlier levels
- gains in learning
- insight into the learning process
- development of social/relationship skills, for example, listening, encouraging
- development of responsibility
- development of self-esteem.

Benefits for teachers

- increased opportunity to interact effectively with a range of individual students
- more effective use of time
- greater coverage of individual needs
- opportunities to observe students at work, and to assess skills.

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Strengthen collaborative strategies

Consider how to build peer-to-peer support through your learning activities and class culture.

A skilled teacher optimises task sequences, not only to directly facilitate the different stages of learning cycles for individual students, but also to build up a peer learning culture that can intensify the challenges and supports for learning.

Source:

[Quality Teaching for Diverse Students in Schooling: Best Evidence Synthesis \(p. 91\)](#)

<https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/publications/series/2515/5959>

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Useful resources



Teaching strategies for inclusive classrooms part 1: Cooperative learning

Read time: 3 min

Information to support setting up a successful cooperative learning programme in your classroom.

[Download](#) PDF (3.2 MB)



Teaching strategies for inclusive classrooms part 2: Peer tutoring

Read time: 3 min

Information to support setting up a successful peer tutoring programme in your classroom. Created for the NZ Ministry of Education.

[Download](#) PDF (6.2 MB)

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