

Cater for diverse learners

A suggestion for implementing the strategy
'Leading learning to support inclusive
practices' from the Guide: [Leading inclusive
schools](#)

-
- Includes:**
- Understand the “end of the average”
 - Create an inclusive, welcoming culture
 - Value what each student brings
 - Design your school environments for everyone
 - Develop inclusive classroom environments
 - Planning innovative learning environments

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Leading schools that include all learners](#)

Strategy: [Leading learning to support inclusive practices](#)

Suggestion: [Cater for diverse learners](#)

Date

11 July 2026

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/leading-schools-that-include-all-learners/cater-for-diverse-learners

Understand the “end of the average”

Todd Rose talks about “the end of the average” and issues with industrial age one-size-fits-all education. He talks about “meeting every kid where they’re at” as the key to future success.



Video hosted on Youtube http://youtu.be/-34ASwa_Ztk

Closed Captions

Source:

[The 74 \(YouTube\)](#)

<https://www.the74million.org/article/the-74-interview-you-dont-think-your-child-is-average-harvards-todd-rose-doesnt-either/>

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Create an inclusive, welcoming culture

Inclusive education means all learners are welcomed by their local early learning service and school, and are supported to play, learn, contribute and participate in all aspects of life at the school or service.

- Welcome all learners regardless of the complexity of their needs.
- Develop systems for smooth and well planned transitions into school.
- Work in partnership with learners, whānau, teachers, teaching assistants and support specialists to provide support from the outset.
- Foster a caring, safe and respectful whole-school environment.
- Foster the identity, language and culture of all learners.
- Share clear and specific expectations for the student's individual learning journey.

Adapted from:

[What an inclusive school looks like \(PDF\)](#) – Ministry of Education

[Enhancing staff capability at Newtown School](#) – Education Gazette

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Value what each student brings

Many aspects of students' lives remain hidden unless we offer multiple opportunities to share stories and experiences and connect these to learning.

John Robinson, HoD Learning Support at Onslow College, reflects on how inclusive practice is developing across the school.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/100662411>

Closed Captions

Source:

[Ministry of Education, inclusive education videos](#)

<http://vimeo.com/album/2950799>

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Design your school environments for everyone

A learning environment will work well for everyone only if it is designed to do so. Design to include all students, particularly those experiencing barriers to learning.

Read these school stories from the Education Gazette:

- [Creating inclusive environments](#)
- [A korowai of awahi and wellbeing](#)
- [The journey to a more inclusive education system](#)

See the [Planning innovative learning environments](#) guide for design information on:

- flexible use of spaces
- reflecting cultural perspectives
- supporting gender and sexuality perspectives
- supporting mobility needs, social and sensory needs
- supporting wellbeing and belonging.

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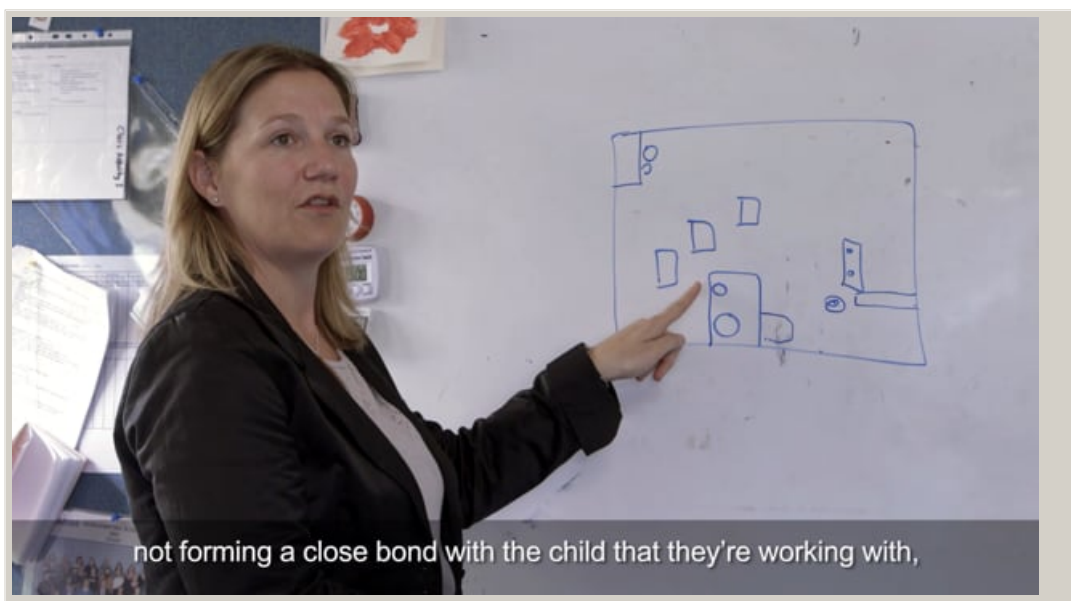
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Develop inclusive classroom environments

Justine Henderson from Berhampore School talks about how they have designed a flexible classroom that is responsive to varying student needs.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/159138467>

Closed Captions

Source:

[Ministry of Education, Inclusive Education videos](#)

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/2950799/video/159138467>

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Planning innovative learning environments

See [Design for all from the outset](#) within the Planning innovative learning environments (ILEs) guide.



Design for flexible use of space

[Visit website](#)

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