

Give everyone a voice

A suggestion for implementing the strategy¹
Collaborate to develop an inclusive ILE¹ from
the Guide: [ILEs](#)

Includes:

- Seek the voices of learners
- Work in partnership with families
- Support collaboration
- Communicate regularly
- Seek parents' perspectives
- Use a variety of communication methods

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Planning innovative learning environments \(ILEs\)](#)

Strategy: [Collaborate to develop an inclusive ILE](#)

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Date

07 June 2026

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/planning-innovative-learning-environments-iles/give-everyone-a-voice

Seek the voices of learners

Six different methods for engaging with children.

- activity-based engagement
- surveys
- focus groups
- advisory groups
- child-led tours
- art and creativity
- in-depth interviews

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Work in partnership with families

The Board of Trustees ran “share an idea” workshops with parents about the skills and attributes they want their children to have by the time they leave the school, and how the built environment could best support this.

The school wanted everyone – students, teachers, and parents – to understand and agree how learning happens.

Source:

[Waimairi School case study](#)

<https://assets.education.govt.nz/public/Documents/Primary-Secondary/Property/Design/Flexible-learning-spaces/Case-Study-Waimairi-School-WEB.pdf>

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Support collaboration

Support collaboration with more than talking.

Deliberately design collaborative approaches, using visuals and hands-on activities to maximise participation.



Video hosted on Youtube <http://youtu.be/4y2IaAC5vj4>

Closed Captions

Source:

[Edutopia \(US\)](#)

<https://www.edutopia.org/blog/8-tips-and-tricks-redesign-your-classroom>

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Communicate regularly

Hampden Street School uses multiple approaches to connect with their community and to create opportunities for discussion.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/161580741>

Closed Captions

Source:

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

<https://elearning.tki.org.nz/Leadership/Strategic-thinking-roadmap/Engaging-with-parents>

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Seek parents' perspectives

Build relationships with parents to inform learning design, and the design of spaces that are welcoming and accessible for all learners.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/186359115>

Closed Captions

Source:

[Ministry of Education, inclusive education videos \(NZ\)](#)
<https://vimeo.com/album/2950799>

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Use a variety of communication methods

Tips to support communication.

- ✓ Use communication options, such as email, blogs, social media, parent meetings or workshops, for two-way conversations.
- ✓ Run workshops where families and whānau can share ideas and common concerns can be addressed.
- ✓ Discuss with parents and whānau how their ideas will be incorporated into the planning.
- ✓ Record community meetings so they can be accessed at a later time.
- ✓ Plan community meetings at different times of the day.
- ✓ Provide hands-on learning sessions so parents gain an understanding of how learning works.
- ✓ Provide opportunities for parents and whānau to visit other schools or view videos of other schools in action.
- ✓ Offer captioned video and research examples, showing how the ILE includes all learners.
- ✓ Develop glossaries to support understanding of new terms and technologies you may be using.
- ✓ Consider the communication needs of your families and whānau. Provide for those who have English as a second language, are Deaf or hard of hearing, or visually impaired.
- ✓ Provide regular updates on progress through newsletters, parent meetings, and the school website.

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