

Provide ongoing discussion opportunities for parents and whānau

A suggestion for implementing the strategy 'Work with parents and whānau' from the Guide: [ILEs](#)

Includes:

- Identify community needs
- Communication approaches
- Parent workshops
- Communicate regularly
- Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

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

Strategy: [Work with parents and whānau](#)

Suggestion: [Provide ongoing discussion opportunities for parents and whānau](#)

Date

07 June 2026

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/planning-innovative-learning-environments-iles/provide-ongoing-discussion-opportunities-for-parents-and-whanau

Identify community needs

Halswell School involved the community from the outset in developing their ILE. Parent input was sought and fed into the architect's design brief.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/142813492>

Closed Captions

Source:

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

<https://elearning.tki.org.nz/Leadership/Leading-e-Learning/Planning-the-new-build-a-school-and-community-partnership>

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Communication approaches

Use a range of communication options.

- ✓ Welcome parents, whānau, and teachers to regular shared breakfasts in the staffroom to discuss ideas, concerns and updates.
- ✓ Have an open-door policy, where parents and whānau are welcome to visit classes at any time and sit in on the learning.
- ✓ Plan and advertise specific open-classroom days when parents and whānau are welcome to chat to students about their thoughts and experiences of working in an ILE.
- ✓ Include regular updates and information explaining the changes in your newsletters.
- ✓ Develop a FAQ webpage, where all the questions people have asked are collated and responses to each one are added.
- ✓ Plan multiple parent evening meetings.

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Parent workshops

When we started our ILE journey, we had lots of questions from parents about what it was, what it would mean, and how it would work. We held a number of parent workshops and meetings to talk it all through. We also made some videos for those who weren't able to come to the meetings.

Source:

[Pegasus Bay School](#)

<http://www.pegasusbay.school.nz/>

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Communicate regularly

Parent, Kirsten explains, “Leah felt that Linda was including us. It wasn’t just she went to school and was in a classroom for 5 hours. She knew that Linda was talking to us.”



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/186356935>

Closed Captions

Source:

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

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Useful resources

Videos, useful websites, and research on connecting with parents, whānau, and the community.



Grow Waitaha: Perspectives and partnerships

A series of videos, useful websites, and links to research and readings to support schools connecting with parents, whānau, and the community as they develop an ILE.

[Visit website](#)

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