

# Provide ongoing discussion opportunities for parents and whānau

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

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## **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](http://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/planning-innovative-learning-environments-iles/provide-ongoing-discussion-opportunities-for-parents-and-whanau)

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## 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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