

Reflect cultural perspectives, consider te ao Māori and other cultures, design to support protocols and practices

A suggestion for implementing the strategy 'Design for all from the outset' from the Guide: [ILEs](#)

Includes:

- Culturally located learning spaces
- Visibly value students' culture
- Spaces for whānau
- DeafSpace
- Strengthen design through partnership
- Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

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

Strategy: [Design for all from the outset](#)

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Date

14 June 2026

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/planning-innovative-learning-environments-iles/reflect-cultural-perspectives-consider-te-ao-maori-and-other-cultures-design-to-support-protocols-and-practices

Culturally located learning spaces

Janelle Riki explains the value of creating spaces where students can learn through and about their culture, including spaces for preparing and sharing kai, overnight stays, and kapa haka.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/124266442>

Closed Captions

Source:

[EDtalks \(NZ\)](#)

<https://edtalks.org/#/video/culturally-located-learning-spaces>

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Visibly value students' culture



Source:

[Kelston School](#)

<https://www.kelstonprimary.school.nz/>

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Spaces for whānau

Ongoing whānau involvement is important for supporting students' learning.

Engage whānau by having spaces they can access in the school – for example, a whānau room where families can meet with teachers, wait for their children, have a cup of tea or coffee, and access the internet.

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DeafSpace

Vision and touch are the primary means of spatial awareness and orientation for Deaf students.

Design and plan your space to include students who are Deaf and hard of hearing.



Video hosted on Youtube <http://youtu.be/FNGp1aviGvE>

Closed Captions

Source:

Vox (US)

<https://youtu.be/FNGp1aviGvE>

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Strengthen design through partnership



Source:

Ministry of Education | Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

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Useful resources

Guidance on designing culturally inclusive spaces.



Māui whakakau, kura whakakau: The impact of physical design on Māori and Pasifika student outcomes

Read time: 43 min

This report provides a starting point for schools to develop the cultural inclusivity of their physical environment. It focuses on the features of school design that demonstrate to Māori and Pasifika students the value placed on their identity, language, and culture.

Publisher: Ministry of Education NZ

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