

# Build whanaungatanga

A suggestion for implementing the strategy  
'Develop effective whole-school practices'  
from the Guide: [Preparing students to leave  
school](#)

- 
- Includes:**
- Connect with culturally sustaining frameworks
  - Build trust
  - Build respectful and reciprocal relationships
  - Involve family and whānau
  - Understand whānau needs and aspirations
  - Successful home-school partnerships

## Connect with culturally sustaining frameworks

Learn from whānau using culturally sustaining frameworks. Understand how to meet hauora or wellbeing and learning needs.

For example use dimensions from the Māori health model, Te Whare Tapa Whā

### Taha Whānau – family, people and relationships

- whānau, friends, iwi and hapū
- cultural, religious, social and recreational connections
- professionals working with the family

### Taha Wairua – spiritual well being or life force

- spiritually strengthening aspects for example faith, being in nature, creative activities and meditation
- special interests
- hopes and priorities for ākonga and whānau

### Taha Tinana – physical wellbeing

- physical activity and recreation preferences
- sensory challenges
- medications and allergies

### Taha Hinengaro – mental and emotional wellbeing

- strengths and talents
- dislikes, what can upset them
- signs that the student is beginning to feel upset or anxious
- strategies used to calm students

### Whenua – connection to the land and environment

- important places
- Iwi and hapū maunga – mountains and awa – rivers
- interests in the environment, plants and animals
- connections to people and ancestors.

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Preparing students to leave school](#)

Strategy: [Develop effective whole-school practices](#)

Suggestion: [Build whanaungatanga](#)

Date

02 July 2026

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/preparing-students-to-leave-school/build-whanaungatanga](http://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/preparing-students-to-leave-school/build-whanaungatanga)

---

## Build trust

Kaiako talk about the importance of getting to know ākongā Māori and building trust to enable learning.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/113877188>

[View transcript](#)

Source:

[Te Mangōroa \(NZ\)](#)

<http://temangoroa.tki.org.nz/Video-stories/TMK-Building-trust-setting-expectation>

[Inclusive Education](#)

From

Guide: [Preparing students to leave school](#)

Strategy: [Develop effective whole-school practices](#)

Suggestion: [Build whanaungatanga](#)

Date

02 July 2026

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/preparing-students-to-leave-school/build-whanaungatanga](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/preparing-students-to-leave-school/build-whanaungatanga)

---

## Build respectful and reciprocal relationships

He Pikorua, the learning support practice framework, begins with whakawhanaungatanga – build connections.

Trusting relationships between kaiako, whānau and ākonga provide opportunities to explore what is important and have difficult conversations when necessary.

Build connections by:

- exploring aspirations and goals
- empowering others
- gaining informed consent
- information sharing
- negotiating roles and expectations
- building staff capability.

## Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Preparing students to leave school](#)

Strategy: [Develop effective whole-school practices](#)

Suggestion: [Build whanaungatanga](#)

Date

02 July 2026

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/preparing-students-to-leave-school/build-whanaungatanga](http://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/preparing-students-to-leave-school/build-whanaungatanga)

---

## Involve family and whānau

“We talk,  
we meet,  
we listen.”  
Educators  
talk about  
engaging  
with and  
welcoming  
Pacific  
families  
using a  
Tapasā  
approach.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/519265219>

Closed Captions

[Inclusive Education](#)

From

Guide: [Preparing students to leave school](#)

Strategy: [Develop effective whole-school practices](#)

Suggestion: [Build whanaungatanga](#)

Date

02 July 2026

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/preparing-students-to-leave-school/build-whanaungatanga](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/preparing-students-to-leave-school/build-whanaungatanga)

---

## Understand whānau needs and aspirations

Develop a shared understanding of the student's aspirations, based on their hopes and ambitions and their cultural contexts and responsibilities.

- ✓ Listen to the aspirations of parents and whānau.
- ✓ Provide the family or whānau with information that will help them to create a positive vision of their child's future.
- ✓ Acknowledge that the family or whānau may have their own support needs and alert them to support agencies and information.
- ✓ Discuss the student's and family's past experiences with schooling and the implications of these for growing positive relationships.
- ✓ Discuss how to support increased independence as the student moves into adulthood.

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Preparing students to leave school](#)

Strategy: [Develop effective whole-school practices](#)

Suggestion: [Build whanaungatanga](#)

Date

02 July 2026

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/preparing-students-to-leave-school/build-whanaungatanga](http://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/preparing-students-to-leave-school/build-whanaungatanga)

---

## Successful home-school partnerships

Build a partnership that has a clear focus on learning, where everyone can make positive and active contributions that benefit learning.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/113879057>

[View transcript](#)

Source:

[Pasifika Education Community \(NZ\)](#)

<http://pasifika.tki.org.nz/Media-gallery/Engaging-with-Pasifika-parents-families-communities/Parents-matter>

This information was downloaded/printed from the Ministry of Education's website "Inclusive Education". Except where otherwise noted it is Crown Copyright 2018.

Information on the Inclusive Education website is regularly updated so we recommend you check the website version of this information to ensure it remains current.