

# Build relationships through connection, understanding, and trust

A suggestion for implementing the strategy

'Know your Māori learners' from the Guide:

[Supporting ākonga Māori](#)

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## **Includes:**

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Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Supporting ākonga Māori](#)

Strategy: [Know your Māori learners](#)

Suggestion: [Build relationships through connection, understanding, and trust](#)

Date

15 September 2025

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-akonga-maori/build-relationships-through-connection-understanding-and-trust](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-akonga-maori/build-relationships-through-connection-understanding-and-trust)

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## Connect culture, learning, and supports

Strategies to support effective classroom practice.

The most effective classroom practice occurs where kaiako:

- ensure that their teaching is responsive to both the socio-cultural, emotional and cognitive dimensions of ākonga Māori
- understand the importance of creating a learning environment where the background and learning needs of ākonga Māori are interdependent
- seek ways to adjust their teaching to take account of the particular social, emotional and academic needs of ākonga Māori.

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## Build trust

Kaiako talk about the importance of getting to know ākonga 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>

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## Find out where students are from

Create ongoing opportunities for ākonga Māori to share where they are from, what is important to them, and why.



Video hosted on Youtube <http://youtu.be/ftdFs8mZ2oM>

No captions or transcript

**Source:**

[Matapuna Training Centre \(NZ\)](#)

<http://youtu.be/ftdFs8mZ2oM>

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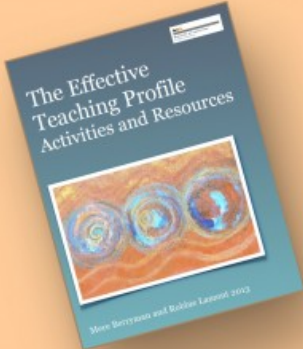
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## Support Māori achievement



**The Effective Teaching Profile (ETP) – Te Kotahitanga**

Effective teachers create a culturally appropriate and responsive context for learning in classrooms.

In doing so they:

- reject deficit theorising as a means of explaining Māori students' achievement levels.
- understand how, and are committed to, bringing about change in Māori students' educational achievement.

**The Effective Teaching Profile consists of six elements**

1. **Manaakitanga** – caring for students as culturally located human beings above all else.
2. **Mana motuhake** – caring for students' performance.
3. **Nga whakapiringatanga** – creating a secure, well-managed learning environment.
4. **Wananga** – engaging in effective teaching interactions with Māori students as Māori.
5. **Ako** – using strategies that promote effective teaching interactions and relationships with students.
6. **Kotahitanga** – promoting, monitoring, and reflecting on outcomes that in turn lead to improvements in educational achievements for Māori students.

Source:

[Te Kotahitanga eBook Collection](#)

<https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/topics/BES/resources/te-kotahitanga-ebook-collection>

[View full image \(1.6 MB\)](#)

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## Create authentic contexts

Create opportunities where ākonga Māori can directly connect their language, culture, and identity to learning.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/113877056>

[View transcript](#)

Source:

Te Mangōroa (NZ)

<http://temangoroa.tki.org.nz/Video-stories/TMK-Culture-counts-1>

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## Useful resources



### The effective teaching profile

The effective teaching profile is made up of two parts. The first identifies two major understandings that effective teachers of ākonga Māori possess, and the second identifies six ways effective teachers relate and interact with ākonga Māori on a daily basis. This resource includes video clips to illustrate key Māori understandings.

[Visit website](#)



### Tama-te-rā Ariki: Voices of tamariki and rangatahi Māori

Tamariki and rangatahi Māori share what is important to them. The voices in the report are grouped in five themes.

Publisher: The Office of the Children's Commissioner

[Visit website](#)

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