

# Discuss ākonga Māori learning and wellbeing, and plan effective support

A suggestion for implementing the strategy 'Establish reciprocal relationships' from the Guide: [Supporting ākonga Māori](#)

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- Includes:**
- Develop home-school contact
  - Consider digital portfolios
  - Use technologies
  - Engage with outside agencies
  - Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Supporting ākonga Māori](#)

Strategy: [Establish reciprocal relationships](#)

Suggestion: [Discuss ākonga Māori learning and wellbeing, and plan effective support](#)

Date

06 June 2026

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-akonga-maori/create-regular-opportunities-to-discuss-students-learning-and-wellbeing-and-plan-effective-support](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-akonga-maori/create-regular-opportunities-to-discuss-students-learning-and-wellbeing-and-plan-effective-support)

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## Develop home-school contact

Establish regular, two-way contact between home and school, focused on sharing students' successes.

- ✓ Improve the timeliness and regularity of feedback and information, especially in relation to children's presence, participation, learning, and achievement.
- ✓ Provide regular opportunities for participation and involvement.
- ✓ Provide information about how to become involved in the school.
- ✓ Ensure that whānau feel they are heard, fully involved, and not rushed in meetings, interviews, and conferences.
- ✓ Report on students' progress in language and formats that are meaningful to, and can be easily understood by, the student and family/whānau.
- ✓ Be open and listen to parents' views.
- ✓ Find ways for parents and whānau to lead activities and events, especially for other parents and their children.

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## Consider digital portfolios

Digital portfolios created and maintained by learners are a vehicle for communicating learning to whānau.



Video hosted on Youtube [http://youtu.be/1MIB\\_ToGzKo](http://youtu.be/1MIB_ToGzKo)

No captions or transcript

Source:

[Ako Punuku](#)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1MIB\\_ToGzKo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1MIB_ToGzKo)

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## Use technologies

Suggestions for using technology to support communication and information sharing.

- ✓ Leave computers on at the end of the day and invite parents and whānau to view students' digital work.
- ✓ Find out the types of technology that parents and whānau use and offer to share in those mediums.
- ✓ Consider using multiple channels, such as mobile devices, email, instant messaging services, social media, and the school website, to connect with parents and whānau.
- ✓ Provide deliberate support or training to show parents and whānau how they can engage with students' work, both face-to-face and through technology.
- ✓ Create and promote online spaces such as blogs that invite parent and whānau participation and feedback.
- ✓ Establish a site or portal for parents and whānau to access and contribute to student learning.
- ✓ Design e-portfolios to inform future steps in learning.

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## Engage with outside agencies

Before engaging support for students from outside services and agencies:

- Find out from family/whānau whether they are already connected with outside agencies or programmes or have been in the past, and what their experience of these agencies/programmes was.
- Check with colleagues, especially the learning support team, to find out which services and agencies the school already has a relationship with and get some feedback on the effectiveness of the partnerships.
- Research possible options for support, so that you can make an informed contribution to discussions.
- Outline other possible options for support when you are discussing the specific needs of a student with their whānau.

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## Useful resources



### Community engagement

This article explains the effectiveness of links between home and school, including links to tools and resources.

[Visit website](#)

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