

Foster whānau engagement

A suggestion for implementing the strategy
'Build community networks' from the Guide:
[Supporting ākonga Māori](#)

Includes:

- Use technologies
- Model inclusion
- Seek feedback
- Establish support groups
- Benefits of parental involvement
- Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Supporting ākonga Māori](#)

Strategy: [Build community networks](#)

Suggestion: [Foster whānau engagement](#)

Date

30 August 2025

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-akonga-maori/foster-whanau-engagement

Use technologies

Use technologies parents are familiar with, such as Facebook, webpages, and blogs to share what is happening in the class with them.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/34539670>

Closed Captions

Source:

[Enabling e-Learning \(NZ\)](#)

<http://elearning.tki.org.nz/Beyond-the-classroom/Engaging-with-the-community/Home-school-partnerships>

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Model inclusion

Model your commitment to inclusion when communicating with parents and whānau.

Consider newsletters, websites, forms, and invitations.

- Make materials available in the languages of your school community.
- Ensure that written material is supported with graphics to support understanding.
- Offer digital and hard copy materials, so that whānau can select an access option that works best for them.
- Clearly explain how parents can connect with teachers and support staff at your school to talk about their child.
- Extend open invitations for parents to join the school parent or whānau group, and other groups they can belong and contribute to.
- Include illustrated success stories about all ākonga.
- Share ongoing stories of your school's commitment to inclusive practices and next steps.

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Seek feedback

Lincoln School staff talk about how they seek feedback from whānau on what is working well and what can be improved.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/272496855>

No captions or transcript

Source:

[He Kākano \(NZ\)](#)

<https://vimeo.com/272496855>

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Establish support groups

Diana Tregoweth outlines some of the approaches in place at Owairaka School that support the development of family and whānau support groups.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/103080577>

[View transcript](#)

Source:

[NZ Curriculum Online \(NZ\)](#)

<http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/Curriculum-resources/Media-gallery/Community-engagement/Ideas-to-engage-your-community>

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Benefits of parental involvement

Research shows that voluntary parental involvement makes a difference for children.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/113877065>

[View transcript](#)

Source:

[Te Mangōroa \(NZ\)](#)

<http://temangoroa.tki.org.nz/Video-stories/TMK-SPP-Whanau-and-communities>

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Useful resources



Creating MASAM – Collaborating with the community

Read time: 2 min

In this webinar from The education hub, Janelle Riki-Waaka explains how leadership and school teams can better support Māori achieving success as Māori (MASAM).

Publisher: The Education Hub

[Visit website](#)



Supporting rangatahi with common-sense solutions

Read time: 5 min

John Murdoch, Newlands College Deputy Principal, reflects on his school's experience setting up a whānau advisory group.

Publisher: Ministry of Education NZ

[Visit website](#)



A framework for partnerships and collaboration

This research offers a framework for building mana affirming and culturally responsive partnerships with whanau to enable greater engagement between home and school.

Publisher: Poutama Pounamu

[Visit website](#)

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