

# 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

07 June 2026

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-akonga-maori/foster-whanau-engagement](http://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>

## Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Supporting ākonga Māori](#)

Strategy: [Build community networks](#)

Suggestion: [Foster whānau engagement](#)

Date

07 June 2026

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-akonga-maori/foster-whanau-engagement](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-akonga-maori/foster-whanau-engagement)

---

# 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.

[Inclusive Education](#)

From

Guide: [Supporting ākonga Māori](#)

Strategy: [Build community networks](#)

Suggestion: [Foster whānau engagement](#)

Date

07 June 2026

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-akonga-maori/foster-whanau-engagement](http://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-akonga-maori/foster-whanau-engagement)

---

## 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>

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Supporting ākonga Māori](#)

Strategy: [Build community networks](#)

Suggestion: [Foster whānau engagement](#)

Date

07 June 2026

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-akonga-maori/foster-whanau-engagement](http://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-akonga-maori/foster-whanau-engagement)

---

## 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>

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Supporting ākonga Māori](#)

Strategy: [Build community networks](#)

Suggestion: [Foster whānau engagement](#)

Date

07 June 2026

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-akonga-maori/foster-whanau-engagement](http://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-akonga-maori/foster-whanau-engagement)

---

## 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>

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Supporting ākonga Māori](#)

Strategy: [Build community networks](#)

Suggestion: [Foster whānau engagement](#)

Date

07 June 2026

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-akonga-maori/foster-whanau-engagement](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-akonga-maori/foster-whanau-engagement)

---

## 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](#)

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.