

Engage with community perspectives and expectations

A suggestion for implementing the strategy 'Design inclusive school-wide systems and processes' from the Guide: [LGBTIQA+ students](#)

Includes:

- Keep an open door
- Expect and prepare for multiple perspectives
- Demonstrate diversity is valued
- Questions to ask
- Reflection questions
- Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Supporting LGBTIQ+ students](#)

Strategy: [Design inclusive school-wide systems and processes](#)

Suggestion: [Engage with community perspectives and expectations](#)

Date

20 April 2024

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-lgbtqa-students/engage-with-community-perspectives-and-expectations

Keep an open door



Source:

[Enabling e-Learning](#)

<https://elearning.tki.org.nz/Snapshots-of-learning/Snapshots-of-Learning/Mutukaroa-A-home-school-learning-partnership/Mutukaroa-Connecting-with-wha-nau>

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Expect and prepare for multiple perspectives

Attitudes to sexual orientation and gender diversity will differ across and within communities, families, generations, and cultural groups.

Consider how you will:

- ✓ listen to the concerns of parents and caregivers and acknowledge their points of view
- ✓ provide multiple opportunities for parents, caregivers and students to express their values and beliefs
- ✓ communicate the systems and processes that support families and whānau in how to have a say
- ✓ provide multiple ways to keep parents informed (for example, through newsletters, parent meetings, online spaces)
- ✓ promote your antibullying policy and explain its connection to these inclusive practices
- ✓ share your school vision for all learners, with a focus on increasing respect and understanding of difference and diversity, and including diverse sexuality and gender identities.

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Demonstrate diversity is valued

Value and support the diversity in families through:

- ✓ engaging and working with parents who can offer skills and expertise around LGBTIQ+ identities and experiences.
- ✓ using inclusive language on forms
- ✓ including sexuality and gender diversity in the curriculum
- ✓ school systems that support families when issues of harassment or prejudice occur
- ✓ ensuring families know about the school's harassment policy and that the school supports gender and sexuality diversity
- ✓ seeking a wide representation of diversity on school boards, parent committees, and in wider school activities and events
- ✓ communicating the school's commitment to being a safe, respectful, supportive, and inclusive environment for all members of the school community.

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Questions to ask

To guide effective support, ask parents and whānau about:

- ✓ ways to create a supportive environment for their children
- ✓ the support options and information they need
- ✓ how they want specific questions from other parents, teachers, and students to be handled.

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Reflection questions

Consider these questions for your own context.

How will you engage your school community in building understanding of creating safe and inclusive school environments for all?

What opportunities will you provide your community so they can share their expectations and perspectives in a safe and respectful way?

How will you work collaboratively with whānau on concerns relating to student safety and wellbeing?

How will you promote programmes that focus on accurate information and respect differences?

Who can help you build your knowledge of different cultural and religious views and beliefs about gender and sexuality to expand understanding?

How will you address sexuality and gender diversities in your school charter?

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Useful resources



Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) parents and their children: Support strategies for educators

Read time: 11 min

Article outlining strategies for creating safe schools for children of LGBT parents. Published by the National Association of School Psychologists (US).

Publisher: National Association of School Psychologists

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