

# Provide support systems for students and whānau

A suggestion for implementing the strategy

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

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## **Includes:**

Develop shared expectations

Consider the needs of students and whānau

Strategies to support students

Support peer-to-peer groups

Provide information on support agencies

Useful resources

## Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Supporting LGBTIQ+ students](#)

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

Suggestion: [Provide support systems for students and whānau](#)

Date

27 April 2024

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-lgbtiqa-students/provide-support-systems-for-students-and-whanau](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-lgbtiqa-students/provide-support-systems-for-students-and-whanau)

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# Develop shared expectations

Define together with students and whānau the building blocks of an inclusive culture.

Ask, what would we expect to see, feel, have access to?

- ✓ Develop comprehensive, safe-school policies that include the voice of whānau who identify as LGBTIQ+.
- ✓ Engage in a collaborative process with students, parents, and whānau to develop school policies and systems.
- ✓ Consult with parents and whānau in ways appropriate to each school community, such as surveys, hui, fono, or parent meetings.
- ✓ Have clear processes in place to ensure families receive assistance should issues of harassment or bullying occur.
- ✓ Create safe spaces and access to an informed, knowledgeable, and supportive person.
- ✓ Provide easy access to relevant materials, resources, and support services.
- ✓ Provide whānau with reassurances of confidentiality and respect for their privacy.

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# Consider the needs of students and whānau



Source:

[Outline](#)

<http://www.outline.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Families-of-LGBTQ.pdf>

[View full image \(501 KB\)](#)

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# Strategies to support students

Adolescence is a time when identity, self-knowledge, social skills and independence are being developed.

It can be a challenging and painful time for students who lack access to information and support.

Key strategies to support students include:

- ✓ delivering school-wide, comprehensive sexuality education
- ✓ providing health education across all year levels
- ✓ integrating relevant content across curriculum areas
- ✓ providing easy access to appropriate and relevant information
- ✓ using supportive, gender-inclusive images in posters and advertising for school events
- ✓ providing access to adults who understand health and medical issues
- ✓ ensuring that all students are aware of key staff members they can approach for support
- ✓ reassuring students of confidentiality and respect for their privacy
- ✓ providing opportunities to ask questions anonymously
- ✓ working in partnership with transgender students to ensure their transition is supported, respected, and affirmed
- ✓ responding sensitively to time out of school for attending medical appointments
- ✓ developing supportive plans to ensure students are able catch up on assignments and learning missed due to outside-school appointments.

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## Support peer-to-peer groups



Source:

[Inside Out – Resources for schools](https://www.insideout.org.nz/resources/)

<https://www.insideout.org.nz/resources/>

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# Provide information on support agencies

Introduce students and whānau to people and agencies that can provide support.

- ✓ [RainbowYOUTH](#) – provide support for friends and family of queer and gender-diverse youth.
- ✓ [InsideOUT](#) – an organisation that provides support for young people of minority sexualities and genders.
- ✓ [OUTLindeNZ](#) – a helpline staffed by self-accepting LGBTIQ+ people who have trained to help others over the phone with issues related to sexual identity.
- ✓ [Family Planning](#) – an organisation that provides sexual and reproductive health care to people of any gender or sexual orientation.
- ✓ [Village Collective](#) – an organisation that supports and equips Pacific youth, families, and communities with resources and information related to sexual health and wellbeing.
- ✓ [The I'm Local Project \(RainbowYOUTH\)](#) – a regional directory of queer and gender-diverse support groups throughout Aotearoa.
- ✓ [ITANZ](#) – a New Zealand registered charitable trust that provides information, education and training for organisations and professionals who provide services to intersex people and their families.

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## Useful resources



## Rainbow families: School support guide

Read time: 59 min

Booklet for teachers, parents and caregivers and schools about how they can best support LGBTIQA+ families. Developed by the Australian group, Rainbow Families.

Publisher: Rainbow Families

[Visit website](#)



## For families of young people who are queer, lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual or questioning

Read time: 11 min

This brochure offers support for New Zealand families of gender- and sexuality-diverse young people. It includes parent voices, links to support groups, commonly asked questions, and tips for parents.

Publisher: Outline

[Download PDF](#)



## 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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