

# Make LGBTQIA+ content and themes visible across the curriculum

A suggestion for implementing the strategy

'Develop an inclusive classroom and curriculum' from the Guide: [LGBTQIA+ students](#)

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## **Includes:**

- Consider the impact of invisibility
- Integrate LGBTQIA+ content into the curriculum
- Build understanding of diversity
- Make your commitment to diversity visible
- Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Supporting LGBTQIA+ students](#)

Strategy: [Develop an inclusive classroom and curriculum](#)

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Date

05 June 2026

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-lgbtqia-students/make-lgbtqia-content-and-themes-visible-across-the-curriculum](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-lgbtqia-students/make-lgbtqia-content-and-themes-visible-across-the-curriculum)

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## Consider the impact of invisibility

Ensure all students experience a sense of belonging in your classroom.

When someone with the authority of a teacher describes the world and you are not in it, there is a moment of psychic disequilibrium, as if you looked into a mirror and saw nothing.

**Adrienne Rich**

**Source:**

[Schools in transition: A guide for supporting transgender students in K-12 schools](#)

[https://gender-spectrum.cdn.prismic.io/gender-spectrum%2F7c4c63b2-52f2-4cb0-a48f-dd049bf6962c\\_schools-in-transition-2015-min.pdf](https://gender-spectrum.cdn.prismic.io/gender-spectrum%2F7c4c63b2-52f2-4cb0-a48f-dd049bf6962c_schools-in-transition-2015-min.pdf)

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# Integrate LGBTQIA+ content into the curriculum

Talk about and include LGBTQIA+ people and issues across the curriculum through:

- ✓ normalising LGBTQIA+ people, same-sex relationships, and gender diversity
- ✓ having positive representations of LGBTQIA+ people – invite role models the students can identify with into the classroom
- ✓ using videos and books that illustrate diversity as both normal and everyday, and also something to be celebrated
- ✓ reading children’s books that break gender-role stereotypes
- ✓ interrogating and deconstructing texts that assume heterosexuality or gender stereotypes
- ✓ visually showing your support for diverse families by displaying images of diverse relationships on the classroom walls
- ✓ using celebrations such as mother’s and father’s day to talk about diversity and celebrate all forms of relationships
- ✓ modelling values of fairness, empathy, acceptance, kindness, respect, and responsibility to and for all people
- ✓ ensuring that classroom responsibilities are inclusive, gender-balanced and not stereotyped.
- ✓ acknowledging and investigating notable international LGBTQIA+ dates and events in your school or classroom.

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## **Build understanding of diversity**



# Making Schools Safer

A practical resource for schools on supporting transgender, gender diverse, and intersex students in Aotearoa

Source:

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

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

[View full image \(636 KB\)](#)

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## Make your commitment to diversity visible

Consider how families visiting your school will view your inclusivity.

When we were looking around, we noticed at several schools the counsellors had posters up about same-sex attracted youth, which indicated to us, at an institutional level, that they were not discriminating.

### **Parent**

#### **Source:**

[Rainbow families: School support guide](#)

[https://www.rainbowfamilies.com.au/school\\_support\\_guide](https://www.rainbowfamilies.com.au/school_support_guide)

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## Useful resources



### Out on the shelves

An online resource that lists books with rainbow themes and characters, with the aim of supporting rainbow young people to find stories that represent their identities in positive and affirming ways. The site provides information about the campaign week for libraries to promote and build their rainbow collections and help connect rainbow young people with their stories and with each other.

Publisher: InsideOUT

[Visit website](#)



### InsideOUT: Resources for schools

A range of print and online resources that can be downloaded Digitally or ordered as physical copies

Publisher: InsideOUT

[Visit website](#)

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