

# Understand legal obligations and children's rights

A suggestion for implementing the strategy 'Build knowledge of sex, gender, and sexuality diversity' from the Guide: [LGBTQIA+ students](#)

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## **Includes:**

- Revisit NZC values
- Ensure all students are safe
- Commit to diversity
- Ensure freedom from discrimination
- Meet legal obligations
- Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Supporting LGBTQIA+ students](#)

Strategy: [Build knowledge of sex, gender, and sexuality diversity](#)

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Date

05 June 2026

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-lgbtqia-students/understand-legal-obligations-and-childrens-rights](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-lgbtqia-students/understand-legal-obligations-and-childrens-rights)

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## Revisit NZC values

Ensure student rights are upheld.

*The New Zealand Curriculum* is underpinned by values of diversity, equity and respect, and upholds human rights.

These values ensure the rights of all students to:

- self expression
- identification
- support.

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# Ensure all students are safe

Ensure safety and social justice for all students.

We have a policy of safety around identity and culture, and that includes gender.

We feel strongly that every child deserves to feel safe in the school environment.

**Primary school BoT member**

Source:

[Stuff](#)

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/education/80014969/Primary-schools-unisex-toilet-for-transgender-six-year-old-girl>

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# Commit to diversity

Inclusion means preventing invisibility, especially in the curriculum.

**School boards and staff** must ensure that they recognise and affirm the diversity within their school so that everyone feels welcome and valued.

Diversity in schools includes diversity of:

- cultures
- ethnicity
- beliefs and values
- learning needs
- sexes
- sexualities
- gender identities and expressions.

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## Ensure freedom from discrimination



Source:

Ministry of Education | Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

[View full image \(2.4 MB\)](#)

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# Meet legal obligations

All students have the right to learn in an environment where they feel accepted, supported, and are safe.

Boards of trustees play a key governance role in ensuring the learning environment addresses the needs of all learners.

It is the legal obligation of the board of trustees to:

- ✓ provide a safe physical and emotional environment for students
- ✓ ensure the safety of students and employees.

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## Useful resources



### Affirming diversity of sexualities and gender identities in the school community

Read time: 36 min

Guidelines to assist boards of trustees and PPTA branches to consider how well their schools recognise and affirm diversity of sexualities and gender identities. Published by the PPTA.

Publisher: New Zealand Post Primary Teachers' Association

[Visit website](#)



### Safety in schools toolkit

Read time: 51 min

Resource to assist schools to develop and implement effective anti-violence policies, practices, and procedures.

Publisher: New Zealand Post Primary Teachers' Association

[Visit website](#)

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