

Build relationships through connection, understanding, and trust

A suggestion for implementing the strategy

'Know your Pacific learners' from the Guide:

[Supporting Pacific learners](#)

Includes:

Releasing the potential of cultural capital

Make informed connections

Culture and the classroom

Support learning relationships

Characteristics of a good teacher

Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Supporting Pacific learners](#)

Strategy: [Know your Pacific learners](#)

Suggestion: [Build relationships through connection, understanding, and trust](#)

Date

11 June 2026

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-pacific-learners/make-personal-connections-to-develop-understanding-and-trust

Releasing the potential of cultural capital

Listen to four teachers discuss the cultural capital that all learners bring to their learning context.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/350835351>

Closed Captions

Source:

[Teaching Council](#)

<https://vimeo.com/teachingcouncilnz>

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Make informed connections

Find out where your Pacific learners were born, the cultures they connect with, and the languages they speak and hear in their families.

Use this knowledge to connect experiences to learning.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/113879054>

[View transcript](#)

Source:

[Pasifika Education Community \(NZ\)](http://pasifika.tki.org.nz)

<http://pasifika.tki.org.nz/Media-gallery/Engaging-with-Pasifika-parents-families-communities/Diversity-and-Identity>

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Culture and the classroom

O tu, aganu'u, ma agaifanua a le tamaititi o le a le mafai ona ulufale atu I le potuaoga sei vagana ua fa'atauaina ma faaulufaleina muamua I le loto ma le agaga o le faiaoga.

The culture of the child cannot enter the classroom until it has first entered the consciousness of the teacher.

Samoan saying

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Support learning relationships

Anthony
Faitau
advocates
creating a safe
environment
by
understanding
the students'
culture and
values.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/108960269>

Closed Captions

Source:

[EDtalks \(NZ\)](#)

<http://edtalks.org/#/video/modern-learning-pedagogy-through-pasifika-lens>

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Characteristics of a good teacher

According to Pacific learners (and Pacific parents), a "good teacher":

- ✓ understands that my identity, language and culture is important to me
- ✓ pronounces my name and words in my language properly
- ✓ recognises that English might not be my and/ or my parents' first language and communicates with us in a way that we can understand
- ✓ makes an effort to learn and use simple words like saying 'hello' and 'thank you' in my language
- ✓ does research to know more about me, my family and my culture and island nation(s) that we come from
- ✓ understands the values that are important to me such as faith, spirituality (church) and family

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Useful resources



Language enhancing the achievement of Pasifika

The LEAP resource aims to bring together all the factors that can support bilingual Pasifika students' learning. It suggests ways in which teachers can explore, in practical ways, language teaching and learning principles that can help them work more effectively with bilingual Pasifika students.

Publisher: Ministry of Education NZ

[Visit website](#)

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