

Uphold Pacific values

A suggestion for implementing the strategy
'Develop cultural capability' from the Guide:
[Supporting Pacific learners](#)

Includes:

- Nurture students' identities
- Embrace, value and support a thriving Pacific community
- Have high expectations
- Understand what matters
- Reflective questions

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Supporting Pacific learners](#)

Strategy: [Develop cultural capability](#)

Suggestion: [Uphold Pacific values](#)

Date

10 July 2026

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-pacific-learners/upholding-rights

Nurture students' identities

This proverb speaks of the importance of recognising and valuing the diverse languages and cultures children bring with them to their learning environments.

Ko toku Tokiga e mau ai toku hikohikomaga

My culture and language consolidate my learning environment

Tokelauan proverb

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Embrace, value and support a thriving Pacific community

Actions we can take to support our Pacific communities.

- ✓ Listen to and learn more about your learners and families regarding their experiences. What do they want to change? What's stopping them learning and developing? How safe do they feel?
- ✓ Commit to professional learning and development around anti-racism and discrimination
- ✓ Establish a process to confirm how to pronounce names and how to identify learners correctly, including gender identity markers. Record correct ways to identify students.
- ✓ Review policies and practices around same-ability grouping and streaming. Who is being affected by these policies and how?
- ✓ Regularly reflect on and engage with learners and families about what's happening

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Have high expectations

Teacher expectations lead to student self-confidence and belief; it motivates the learners to aim high and get to places where few or no Pacific learners are represented.

In this video, a teacher talks about scholarships.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/519282731>

Closed Captions

Source:

[Tapasā: teacher expectations](#)

<https://tapasa.tki.org.nz/teaching-stories/where-am-i/the-importance-of-knowing-the-learner/teacher-expectations/>

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Understand what matters

In this video, Pacific learners share what they want their teachers to know about them.

Students urge their teachers to move beyond cultural stereotypes and engage and respond to their distinctive identities, values, cultures, and life experiences.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/519258824>

Closed Captions

Source:

[Tapasā: What do you want teachers to know about you?](https://tapasa.tki.org.nz/teaching-stories/student-engagement/what-do-you-want-teachers-to-know-about-you/)

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Reflective questions

Embracing the identity, culture, and language of diverse learners strongly motivates them to strive for success.

Consider your responses to these questions.

What actions do they inspire?

What excites you about learning about the diverse Pacific cultures?

How are you fostering culture and identity in your teaching and lessons?

What techniques will you use to embrace the culture and identity of students from different backgrounds?

How can you create a culturally responsive classroom where your learners can uphold their cultural identity?

How are you promoting the home languages of your learners inside the classroom and outside their home community and families?

How can you build up a classroom of diverse learners so that they can do their best?

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