

# Create an accessible learning environment | Te waihanga wāhi ako tomopai

A suggestion for implementing the strategy

'Prepare your environment | Te whakarite wāhi ako' from the Guide: [Te Ara Ako – Learning pathways in times of change](#)

---

## **Includes:**

Why this matters | Te take

Moving around the school | Ngā wāhi i te kura

Create visual supports | Rauemi ataata

Create community within your class | Te whai hapori i tō akomanga

Equip with assistive technology | Hangarau taituarā

Useful resources | He rauemi

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Te Ara Ako – Learning pathways in times of change](#)

Strategy: [Prepare your environment | Te whakarite wāhi ako](#)

Suggestion: [Create an accessible learning environment | Te waihanga wāhi ako tomopai](#)

Date

15 June 2026

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/te-ara-ako-learning-pathways-in-times-of-change/create-an-accessible-learning-environment-te-waihanga-wahi-ako-tomopai](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/te-ara-ako-learning-pathways-in-times-of-change/create-an-accessible-learning-environment-te-waihanga-wahi-ako-tomopai)

---

## Why this matters | Te take



[View full image \(11 KB\)](#)

## Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Te Ara Ako – Learning pathways in times of change](#)

Strategy: [Prepare your environment | Te whakarite wāhi ako](#)

Suggestion: [Create an accessible learning environment | Te waihanga wāhi ako tomopai](#)

Date

15 June 2026

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/te-ara-ako-learning-pathways-in-times-of-change/create-an-accessible-learning-environment-te-waihanga-wahi-ako-tomopai](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/te-ara-ako-learning-pathways-in-times-of-change/create-an-accessible-learning-environment-te-waihanga-wahi-ako-tomopai)

---

# Moving around the school | Ngā wāhi i te kura

"Mā te huruhuru te manu ka rere"

Feathers enable a bird to fly.

Consider how ākonga will gain access to all areas within the school grounds. This includes:

- canteens and tuck shops
- library and hall areas
- suitable playground equipment
- areas to sit or play during break times
- wet day areas
- lockdown or emergency evacuation areas
- toilets
- pick-up and drop-off areas
- bus stops.

## Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Te Ara Ako – Learning pathways in times of change](#)

Strategy: [Prepare your environment | Te whakarite wāhi ako](#)

Suggestion: [Create an accessible learning environment | Te waihanga wāhi ako tomopai](#)

Date

15 June 2026

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/te-ara-ako-learning-pathways-in-times-of-change/create-an-accessible-learning-environment-te-waihanga-wahi-ako-tomopai](http://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/te-ara-ako-learning-pathways-in-times-of-change/create-an-accessible-learning-environment-te-waihanga-wahi-ako-tomopai)

## Create visual supports | Rauemi ataata

Visual timetables are a proven way to provide structure and stability for new ākonga. It may take several weeks or months for ākonga to learn to use their visual timetable. Continue to reinforce these visual routines and model the use of them daily. For more examples see the [Autism and Learning Guide](#).



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/100662378>

Closed Captions

## Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Te Ara Ako – Learning pathways in times of change](#)

Strategy: [Prepare your environment | Te whakarite wāhi ako](#)

Suggestion: [Create an accessible learning environment | Te waihanga wāhi ako tomopai](#)

Date

15 June 2026

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/te-ara-ako-learning-pathways-in-times-of-change/create-an-accessible-learning-environment-te-waihanga-wahi-ako-tomopai](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/te-ara-ako-learning-pathways-in-times-of-change/create-an-accessible-learning-environment-te-waihanga-wahi-ako-tomopai)

---

# Create community within your class | Te whai hapori i tō akomanga

When welcoming a new ākonga into your class and school, you could:

- send an email or a letter from the class
- share food and mihi on their first day
- create a welcome booklet
- welcome a deaf or hard of hearing student using NZSL and learn how to use sign language ([Deaf and hard of hearing guide](#))
- invite a student to be a buddy to the new student to provide social and in-class support.

## Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Te Ara Ako – Learning pathways in times of change](#)

Strategy: [Prepare your environment | Te whakarite wāhi ako](#)

Suggestion: [Create an accessible learning environment | Te waihanga wāhi ako tomopai](#)

Date

15 June 2026

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/te-ara-ako-learning-pathways-in-times-of-change/create-an-accessible-learning-environment-te-waihanga-wahi-ako-tomopai](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/te-ara-ako-learning-pathways-in-times-of-change/create-an-accessible-learning-environment-te-waihanga-wahi-ako-tomopai)

---

## Equip with assistive technology | Hangarau taituarā

- ✓ Ensure that assistive technology supports are applied or set up before ākonga arrives.
- ✓ Check whether existing software or devices need to be updated (example: apps and digital hardware).
- ✓ Save important details for accessing devices and software in a common, accessible place for all staff.

## Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Te Ara Ako – Learning pathways in times of change](#)

Strategy: [Prepare your environment | Te whakarite wāhi ako](#)

Suggestion: [Create an accessible learning environment | Te waihanga wāhi ako tomopai](#)

Date

15 June 2026

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/te-ara-ako-learning-pathways-in-times-of-change/create-an-accessible-learning-environment-te-waihanga-wahi-ako-tomopai](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/te-ara-ako-learning-pathways-in-times-of-change/create-an-accessible-learning-environment-te-waihanga-wahi-ako-tomopai)

---

## Useful resources | He rauemi



### Who assistive technology is for

The Ministry of Education has regional coordinators who can assist with information and requests for assistive technology.

[Visit website](#)



### Technology tools for learning

This guide may provide guidance and support with assistive technologies.

[Visit website](#)

This information was downloaded/printed from the Ministry of Education's website "Inclusive Education". Except where otherwise noted it is Crown Copyright 2018.

Information on the Inclusive Education website is regularly updated so we recommend you check the website version of this information to ensure it remains current.