

# Prepare the physical and virtual environments for flexibility and personalisation

A suggestion for implementing the strategy

'Design considerations in primary settings'

from the Guide: [Universal Design for Learning](#)

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## **Includes:**

Student-led design for diversity

Knowledge of learners influences design decisions

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Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Universal Design for Learning](#)

Strategy: [Design considerations in primary settings](#)

Suggestion: [Prepare the physical and virtual environments for flexibility and personalisation](#)

Date

09 July 2026

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/universal-design-for-learning/prepare-the-physical-and-virtual-environments-for-flexibility-and-personalisation-2](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/universal-design-for-learning/prepare-the-physical-and-virtual-environments-for-flexibility-and-personalisation-2)

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## Student-led design for diversity

Consider how you support student agency in the inclusive design of your learning space.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/73105645>

No captions or transcript

Source:

[EDtalks \(NZ\)](#)

<http://edtalks.org/#/video/involving-students-design>

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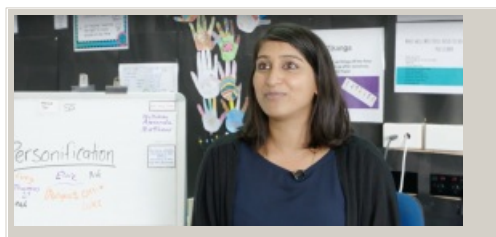
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# Knowledge of learners influences design decisions

Anita Patel describes how UDL thinking has influenced her practice.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/220585051>

Closed Captions

Source:

Ministry of Education, [inclusive education videos \(NZ\)](#)  
<https://vimeo.com/album/2950799>

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## Provide comfortable furnishing



Source:

Ministry of Education | Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

[View full image \(1.6 MB\)](#)

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## Inclusive design online

UDL principles can be applied to the design of online environments, for example:

**Engagement:** reducing anxiety to promote engagement.

**Example:** Regularly touch base with students through Google comments or messaging.

**Representation:** using multiple examples to activate prior knowledge.

**Example:** Students post examples of what they know already in a Padlet using text, image, video, audio, and web page links.

**Action and Expression:** supporting understanding of content.

**Example:** Use narrated video to clarify steps involved in an activity or learning task.

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## Reflection questions

Reflect on the following questions for your context.

How can we more effectively involve all students in the design of our flexible learning space?

How can we improve the design of online environments to remove barriers to access and engagement?

Can our learning space be changed and rearranged based on user needs and preferences at that time?

How can the layout of the environment minimise threats and distractions to learning?

How can the layout of the environment create opportunities for connection and collaboration?

What regular processes do we have to seek student and whānau feedback on the usefulness of our physical and online environments?

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## Useful resources



### UDL Virtual tour

An interactive 360 deg tour of a high school classroom to see every day examples of UDL. To navigate through the classroom, click and drag the mouse to the left or right. Click on hotspots and magnifying glasses to zoom in on specific examples. Use the map to locate and see a brief description of each UDL support.

Publisher: Maryland Learning Links

[Visit website](#)



### 5 ways to improve student voice and choice

Five practical suggestions to support student engagement in the classroom through student voice and choice.

[Visit website](#)

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