

# Support authentic student decision making over matters that affect them

A suggestion for implementing the strategy

'Collaboratively develop a safe and caring culture and climate' from the Guide:

[Behaviour and learning](#)

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## **Includes:**

- Students on student voice
- Weekly democratic meetings
- Offer multiple ways to participate
- Consult with all, not just some students
- Reflective questions
- Useful resources

## Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Behaviour and learning](#)

Strategy: [Collaboratively develop a safe and caring culture and climate](#)

Suggestion: [Support authentic student decision making over matters that affect them](#)

Date

17 May 2024

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/behaviour-and-learning/support-authentic-student-decision-making-over-matters-that-affect-them](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/behaviour-and-learning/support-authentic-student-decision-making-over-matters-that-affect-them)

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## Students on student voice

"... if I  
can't  
have a  
say in  
how  
[school]  
should  
be safe  
then I  
wouldn't  
want to  
come  
back  
here  
and I  
wouldn't  
feel  
safe".



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/189234772>

Closed Captions

Source:

[Ministry of Education | Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga \(NZ\)](#)

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## Weekly democratic meetings

Provide a structured time where students can learn and practice problem solving skills.



Video hosted on Youtube <http://youtu.be/21w4teoK-Og>

No captions or transcript

Source:

[Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium \(Canada\)](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCC8IqajJxo6oK1-MRkw1ezg>

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## Offer multiple ways to participate

Support student decision making with more than just talking.



Video hosted on Youtube <http://youtu.be/4y2IaAC5vj4>

No captions or transcript

Source:

[Edutopia \(US\)](#)

<http://www.edutopia.org/blog/8-tips-and-tricks-redesign-your-classroom>

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## Consult with all, not just some students

Consider how you will ensure that all students can share their perspectives.

Resist the urge to involve, consult, and listen to only the most motivated and able students.

Young people who are struggling, or at the margins, need to be involved and have their voices heard.

**Source:**

[What works in promoting social and emotional well-being and responding to mental health problems in schools? \(p. 7\)](#)

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/eLibrary/Content/Internet/537/6381/42179102926.pdf>

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## Reflective questions

Adapt for your own context.

What approaches do I use to support student decision making and problem solving?

How do I build the skills and competencies of students to participate in democratic decision making?

What tools and approaches do I offer to ensure every student can participate and share their views?

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## Useful resources



Positive Behaviour for Learning Information sheet: Injecting student voice into positive behaviour approaches

Read time: 1 min

This PB4L information sheet provides suggested ways of working to ensure individual student voices are shared.

Publisher: Positive Behaviour for Learning

[Visit website](#)

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