

# Involve parents and whānau in the design process, seek their ideas, and address their concerns

A suggestion for implementing the strategy 'Collaborate to develop an inclusive ILE' from the Guide: [ILEs](#)

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**Includes:**

- Seek parents' perspectives
  - Work in partnership with families
  - Communicate regularly
  - Use a variety of communication methods
  - Engage with the community at all stages
  - Useful resources
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Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Planning innovative learning environments \(ILEs\)](#)

Strategy: [Collaborate to develop an inclusive ILE](#)

Suggestion: [Involve parents and whānau in the design process, seek their ideas, and address their concerns](#)

Date

22 January 2019

Link

[www.inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/planning-innovative-learning-environments-iles/involve-parents-and-whanau-in-the-design-process-seek-their-ideas-and-address-their-concerns](http://www.inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/planning-innovative-learning-environments-iles/involve-parents-and-whanau-in-the-design-process-seek-their-ideas-and-address-their-concerns)

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## Seek parents' perspectives

An ILE will work well for everyone only if it is designed to do so.

Clearly communicate the rationale for developing an ILE so that parents understand the change. Provide ongoing opportunities for communication and questions.

Listen to parents' concerns, such as those about their child getting lost in the space and needing structure, teacher-led learning, support to make choices about their learning, too much noise, and quiet spaces to learn.

Involve parents in providing solutions. Share with the community how their concerns will be addressed.

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## Work in partnership with families

The Board of Trustees ran “share an idea” workshops with parents about the skills and attributes they want their children to have by the time they leave the school, and how the built environment could best support this.

The school wanted everyone – students, teachers, and parents – to understand and agree how learning happens.

Source: [Waimairi School case study](#)

**Source:**

[Waimairi School case study](#)

<http://www.education.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Primary-Secondary/Property/School-property-design/Flexible-learning-spaces/Case-Study-Waimairi-School-WEB.pdf>

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## Communicate regularly

Hampden Street School uses multiple approaches to connect with their community and to create opportunities for discussion.

Source: [Enabling e-Learning \(NZ\)](#)

Closed Captions

Source:

[Enabling e-Learning \(NZ\)](#)

<http://elearning.tki.org.nz/Connected-Learning-Advisory/Resources/The-strategic-thinking-roadmap#js-tabcontainer-1-tab-3>



Play video

Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/161580741>

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# Use a variety of communication methods

## Tips to support communication.

- ▲▲ Use communication options, such as email, blogs, social media, parent meetings or workshops, for two-way conversations.
- ▲▲ Run workshops where families and whānau can share ideas and common concerns can be addressed.
- ▲▲ Discuss with parents and whānau how their ideas will be incorporated into the planning.
- ▲▲ Record community meetings so they can be accessed at a later time.
- ▲▲ Plan community meetings at different times of the day.
- ▲▲ Provide hands-on learning sessions so parents gain an understanding of how learning works.
- ▲▲ Provide opportunities for parents and whānau to visit other schools or view videos of other schools in action.
- ▲▲ Offer captioned video and research examples, showing how the ILE includes all learners.
- ▲▲ Develop glossaries to support understanding of new terms and technologies you may be using.
- ▲▲ Consider the communication needs of your families and whānau. Provide for those who have English as a second language, are Deaf or hard of hearing, or visually impaired.
- ▲▲ Provide regular updates on progress through newsletters, parent meetings, and the school website.

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## Engage with the community at all stages



Source: [Enabling e-Learning](#)

Source:

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<http://elearning.tki.org.nz/Connected-Learning-Advisory/Resources/Strategic-thinking-roadmap/Engaging-with-parents>

[View full image \(2.4 MB\)](#)

Create multiple opportunities to meet with and listen to your community. Expect their diverse perspectives and experiences to inform the inclusive design of your ILE.

## [Inclusive Education](#)

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## Useful resources

An evaluation of how 256 schools worked with parents and whānau to respond to students at risk of underachievement.



### Educationally powerful connections with parents and whānau

Read time: 72 min

Publisher: Education Review Office | Te Tari Arotake Mātauranga

[Visit website](#)

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