

# Provide support systems for students and whānau

A suggestion for implementing the strategy

'Design inclusive school-wide systems and

processes' from the Guide: [LGBTIQA+](#)

[students](#)

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## **Includes:**

Develop shared expectations

Consider the needs of students and whānau

Strategies to support students

Support peer-to-peer groups

Provide information on support agencies

Useful resources

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## Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Supporting LGBTIQ+ students](#)

Strategy: [Design inclusive school-wide systems and processes](#)

Suggestion: [Provide support systems for students and whānau](#)

Date

17 January 2019

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-lgbtika-students/provide-support-systems-for-students-and-whanau](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-lgbtika-students/provide-support-systems-for-students-and-whanau)

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## Develop shared expectations

Define together with students and whānau the building blocks of an inclusive culture.

Ask, what would we expect to see, feel, have access to?

- ↗ Develop comprehensive, safe-school policies that include the voice of whānau who identify as LGBTIQ+.
- ↗ Engage in a collaborative process with students, parents, and whānau to develop school policies and systems.
- ↗ Consult with parents and whānau in ways appropriate to each school community, such as surveys, hui, fono, or parent meetings.
- ↗ Have clear processes in place to ensure families receive assistance should issues of harassment or bullying occur.
- ↗ Create safe spaces and access to an informed, knowledgeable, and supportive person.
- ↗ Provide easy access to relevant materials, resources, and support services.
- ↗ Provide whānau with reassurances of confidentiality and respect for their privacy.

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## Consider the needs of students and whānau



Source: [Outline](#)

Source:

[Outline](#)

<http://www.outline.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Families-of-LGBTQ.pdf>

[View full image \(501 KB\)](#)

Consider how you can respectfully offer support, resources, and safe spaces for both students and whānau.

## Strategies to support students

Adolescence is a time when identity, self-knowledge, social skills and independence are being developed.

It can be a challenging and painful time for students who lack access to information and support.

Key strategies to support students include:

- ↯ delivering school-wide, comprehensive sexuality education
- ↯ providing health education across all year levels
- ↯ integrating relevant content across curriculum areas
- ↯ providing easy access to appropriate and relevant information
- ↯ using supportive, gender-inclusive images in posters and advertising for school events
- ↯ providing access to adults who understand health and medical issues
- ↯ ensuring that all students are aware of key staff members they can approach for support
- ↯ reassuring students of confidentiality and respect for their privacy
- ↯ providing opportunities to ask questions anonymously
- ↯ working in partnership with transgender students to ensure their transition is supported, respected, and affirmed
- ↯ responding sensitively to time out of school for attending medical appointments
- ↯ developing supportive plans to ensure students are able catch up on assignments and learning missed due to outside-school appointments.

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## Support peer-to-peer groups



Source: [Inside Out – RainbowYOUTH](#)

Source:  
[Inside Out – RainbowYOUTH](#)  
[https://www.google.co.nz/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=0ahUKEwiTt776\\_r7WAhUEsJQKHfBTCK4QFggIMAA&url=https%3A%2F%2Finsideout.org.nz%2Fstarting-and-strengthening-rainbow-diversity-groups%2F&usg=AFQjCNEqr12iiYfWf9yuHTpGXU6NEHJoQQ](https://www.google.co.nz/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=0ahUKEwiTt776_r7WAhUEsJQKHfBTCK4QFggIMAA&url=https%3A%2F%2Finsideout.org.nz%2Fstarting-and-strengthening-rainbow-diversity-groups%2F&usg=AFQjCNEqr12iiYfWf9yuHTpGXU6NEHJoQQ)

[View full image \(176 KB\)](#)

Students report less harassment and bullying based on sexual orientation or gender identity when support groups are in place.

## Provide information on support agencies

Introduce students and whānau to people and agencies that can provide support.

- ↗ [RainbowYOUTH](#) – provide support for friends and family of queer and gender-diverse youth.
- ↗ [Holding our own](#) – a support group for the parents of queer and gender-diverse youth.
- ↗ [InsideOUT](#) – an organisation that provides support for young people of minority sexualities and genders.
- ↗ [OUTLindeNZ](#) – a helpline staffed by self-accepting LGBTIQ+ people who have trained to help others over the phone with issues related to sexual identity.
- ↗ [Family Planning](#) – an organisation that provides sexual and reproductive health care to people of any gender or sexual orientation.
- ↗ [Village collective](#) – an organisation that supports and equips Pacific youth, families, and communities with resources and information related to sexual health and wellbeing.
- ↗ [The I'm Local Project \(RainbowYOUTH\)](#) – a regional directory of queer and gender-diverse support groups throughout Aotearoa.
- ↗ [ITANZ](#) – a NZ registered charitable trust that provides information, education and training for organisations and professionals who provide services to intersex people and their families.

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## Useful resources



### Rainbow families: School support guide

Read time: 59 min

Publisher: Rainbow Families

[Download](#) PDF

For families of young people who are queer, lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual or questioning

Read time: 11 min

Publisher: Outline

[Download](#) PDF

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) parents and their children: Support strategies for educators

Read time: 11 min

Publisher: National Association of School Psychologists

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