

# Use inclusive language to affirm diversity

A suggestion for implementing the strategy

'Develop an inclusive classroom and curriculum' from the Guide: [LGBTIQA+ students](#)

---

## **Includes:**

- Explore gender norms
  - Avoid gendered language
  - Embed inclusive language
  - Use preferred pronouns
  - Use students' chosen names
  - Useful resources
-

## Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Supporting LGBTIQ+ students](#)

Strategy: [Develop an inclusive classroom and curriculum](#)

Suggestion: [Use inclusive language to affirm diversity](#)

Date

17 January 2019

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-lgbtqa-students/use-inclusive-language-to-affirm-diversity](http://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-lgbtqa-students/use-inclusive-language-to-affirm-diversity)

---

## Explore gender norms

Young people talk about the influences of gender norms and the binary division that occurs within school and society.

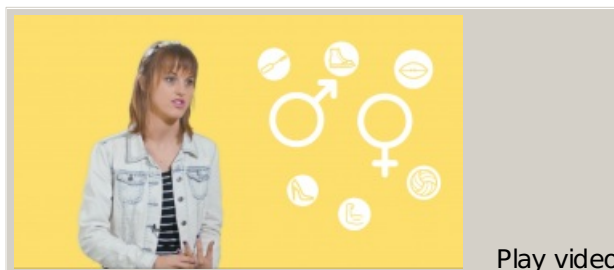
Source: [Inside Out – RainbowYOUTH \(NZ\)](#)

Closed Captions

Source:

[Inside Out – RainbowYOUTH \(NZ\)](#)

<http://insideout.ry.org.nz/ep3/>



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/138558875>

## Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Supporting LGBTIQ+ students](#)

Strategy: [Develop an inclusive classroom and curriculum](#)

Suggestion: [Use inclusive language to affirm diversity](#)

Date

17 January 2019

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-lgbtqi+students/use-inclusive-language-to-affirm-diversity](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-lgbtqi+students/use-inclusive-language-to-affirm-diversity)

---

## Avoid gendered language

Reflect on the language you use in the classroom.

A person's name and pronouns are an important part of their identity.

Using gendered language such as "girls and boys", "ladies and gentlemen" can be alienating for gender non-conforming and gender diverse students.

Avoid this by using vocabulary such as "students", "class", "crew", "everyone", "people" or "year X", which is more inclusive.

## Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Supporting LGBTIQ+ students](#)

Strategy: [Develop an inclusive classroom and curriculum](#)

Suggestion: [Use inclusive language to affirm diversity](#)

Date

17 January 2019

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-lgbtiqa-students/use-inclusive-language-to-affirm-diversity](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-lgbtiqa-students/use-inclusive-language-to-affirm-diversity)

---

## Embed inclusive language

Even small gestures can feel enormous to an individual student.

Consider ways to increase the use of gender-diverse language in your classroom.

Consider presenting:

- ▲ a short story with same-sex parents in the family
- ▲ a maths problem where Dan and his boyfriend, Jai, order a pizza
- ▲ scenarios with gender-neutral language
- ▲ visuals and images that represent diverse sexual identities
- ▲ LGBTIQ+ role models, such as artists, writers, and historical figures in class topics.

[Inclusive Education](#)

From

Guide: [Supporting LGBTIQ+ students](#)

Strategy: [Develop an inclusive classroom and curriculum](#)

Suggestion: [Use inclusive language to affirm diversity](#)

Date

17 January 2019

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-lgbtiqa-students/use-inclusive-language-to-affirm-diversity](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-lgbtiqa-students/use-inclusive-language-to-affirm-diversity)

---

## Use preferred pronouns



Source: [Ted Eytan](#)

Source:

[Ted Eytan](#)

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/taedc/>

[View full image \(96 KB\)](#)

When you are working with young people, respect their right to “self- identify” – to choose the words they are most comfortable identifying with.

[Inclusive Education](#)

From

Guide: [Supporting LGBTIQ+ students](#)

Strategy: [Develop an inclusive classroom and curriculum](#)

Suggestion: [Use inclusive language to affirm diversity](#)

Date

17 January 2019

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-lgbtiqa-students/use-inclusive-language-to-affirm-diversity](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-lgbtiqa-students/use-inclusive-language-to-affirm-diversity)

---

## Use students' chosen names



Source: [Pixabay](#)

**Source:**

[Pixabay](#)

<https://pixabay.com/en/hello-name-tag-sticker-paper-1502386/>

[View full image \(110 KB\)](#)

[Safe Schools Coalition Australia](#)

## [Inclusive Education](#)

From

Guide: [Supporting LGBTIQ+ students](#)

Strategy: [Develop an inclusive classroom and curriculum](#)

Suggestion: [Use inclusive language to affirm diversity](#)

Date

17 January 2019

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-lgbtiqa-students/use-inclusive-language-to-affirm-diversity](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-lgbtiqa-students/use-inclusive-language-to-affirm-diversity)

---

## Useful resources



### Key terms and concepts in understanding gender diversity and sexual orientation among students

Read time: 11 min

Publisher: American Psychological Association

[Download PDF](#)

### A gender identity glossary for schools

Publisher: University of Southern California

[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.