

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 correct 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

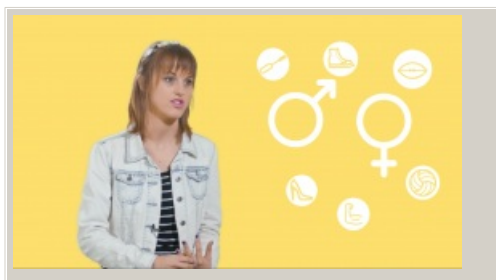
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inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-lgbtika-students/use-inclusive-language-to-affirm-diversity

Explore gender norms

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



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

Closed Captions

Source:

[Inside Out – RainbowYOUTH \(NZ\)](#)

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

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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.

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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 genders and sexualities
- LGBTIQ+ role models, such as artists, writers, and historical figures in class topics.

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Use correct pronouns



Hello
my name is



my pronouns are

Source:

[Ted Eytan](#)

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

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Use students' chosen names



Source:

[Pixabay](#)

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

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Useful resources



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

Read time: 11 min

This is a list of helpful definitions of terms related to gender and sexuality, developed by the American Psychological Association.

Publisher: American Psychological Association

[Download PDF](#)



A gender identity glossary for schools

A glossary of commonly-used terms to describe aspects of gender identity and expression.

Publisher: University of Southern California

[Visit website](#)

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