

# Organise a collaborative environment

A suggestion for implementing the strategy '  
Facilitate collaborative learning' from the  
Guide: [Positive peer relationships](#)

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## Includes:

- Provide flexible learning spaces
- Facilitate a positive environment
- Consider classroom layout
- Open flexible spaces
- Support student preferences
- Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Supporting positive peer relationships](#)

Strategy: [Facilitate collaborative learning](#)

Suggestion: [Organise a collaborative environment](#)

Date

20 April 2024

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-positive-peer-relationships/organise-a-collaborative-environment](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-positive-peer-relationships/organise-a-collaborative-environment)

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## Provide flexible learning spaces



Source:

Anne Kenneally, CORE Education

<https://core-ed.org/about-core/our-people/anne-kenneally>

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## Facilitate a positive environment

Create a warm classroom climate to facilitate positive learning and social behaviours.

- ✓ Set clear boundaries and high standards and expectations.
- ✓ Be fair.
- ✓ Be aware of, acknowledge, and label your own feelings.
- ✓ Acknowledge and affirm students' feelings.
- ✓ Talk through emotional situations.
- ✓ View emotional events as “teachable moments.”
- ✓ Avoid punitive tactics, put-downs, sarcasm and criticism – specify the positive alternatives.
- ✓ Be self-accepting, confident, and secure.
- ✓ Remain calm – your emotional state is mirrored by students.
- ✓ Develop student supports.
- ✓ Accept and empathise with students' feelings
- ✓ Listen with interest.

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## Consider classroom layout

Design your classroom layout to support students with varying learning needs and preferences in their collaboration.

- Choose a flexible layout that adapts to the learner, rather than limiting the learner.
- Offer seating patterns, configurations, and spaces to facilitate social exchanges among students alongside quiet reflection time.
- Provide a variety of technologies to support participation, communication, and collaboration.
- Use visual supports such as timers, visual displays, and graphic organisers to support self management.
- Provide different types of furniture to support students' varying physical needs and preferences (for example, wobbly stools for students who move to concentrate).

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## Open flexible spaces

In this section of a longer video, teachers and students from Albany Senior High School describe how their spaces enable differentiated learning.



Video hosted on Vimeo [http://vimeo.com/60782952](https://vimeo.com/60782952)

No captions or transcript

**Source:**

[EDtalks \(NZ\)](#)

<http://edtalks.org/video/modern-learning-environments-albany-senior-high-school>

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## Support student preferences



Source:

Ministry of Education | Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

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## Useful resources



### Building an inclusive classroom culture

This guide provides New Zealand illustrations of the distinguishing features of classrooms that value diversity and are truly inclusive.

[Visit website](#)



### EDtalks: Modern learning environment

Videos of interviews and discussions about modern learning environments in New Zealand.

[Visit website](#)

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