

Reviewing your school–whānau partnerships / Te arotake i ngā hononga kura–whānau

School:

Whānau representatives:

Year:

School representatives:

This is a PDF version of the interactive self-review tool from the Ruia School-whānau Partnerships website.

The tool is not used multiple times by multiple users; rather, it is worked through twice, once by the school leader(s) and once by whānau representatives. For this reason, school leaders and whānau may find it helpful to work with this PDF before actually working through the tool online.

Reviewing school-whānau partnerships will generally be a collaborative, face-to-face process for school leaders and whānau representatives. However, after the tool has been introduced to whānau representatives, they use it to complete their review *independently* of school leaders. This provides valuable information on how whānau views differ from the school's. The analysis of this information and ongoing review of partnerships should then occur collaboratively.

See the online interactive version of the tool for the steps to follow when working with the tool. The descriptions of the first two steps (*Agreeing on a process and deciding on roles; Gathering information*) are especially important and also apply to using this PDF.

As you can see below, the tool covers seven areas – an overview and six areas served through partnerships. For each of the areas, there are indicators for opposite ends of a continuum of school–whānau engagement. At one end of the continuum, school and whānau engage in a minimal or limited way that is usually determined by the school. At the other end, school, whānau, and the Māori community engage in genuine, long-term partnerships for learning.

As you work through each area, choose a rating (from 1 to 5) for each pair of indicators and enter the evidence, next steps, and required professional learning for that area.

Overview

Basic engagement		Educationally powerful partnerships
a) The school does not see partnerships with whānau as an important focus.	<hr/> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p>	The school actively seeks to connect with whānau and the Māori community and to understand the iwi contexts of its Māori students and of the area.
b) Māori families tend to be uninvolved with the school.	<hr/> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p>	School leaders and staff ensure the school is welcoming and accessible to whānau and the Māori community. They persist until Māori families are involved with the school.
c) All students and their families are treated the same, without a particular focus on Māori students and whānau.	<hr/> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p>	The school actively acknowledges whānau and the Māori community as key stakeholders in the school. School–whānau engagement is based on shared strategic planning to maximise Māori learners’ success.
d) Whānau have opportunities to contribute their views on school policies and practices if they wish.	<hr/> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p>	The school actively encourages, supports, and (where appropriate) challenges whānau and the Māori community to determine how they wish to engage about important matters at the school.
e) Policies and related documents are neutral in terms of whānau participation.	<hr/> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p>	Whānau and the Māori community participate in the development of policies and processes; and these reflect the importance of such participation.

Evidence
Next steps
Professional learning requirements

The school curriculum

Basic engagement							Educationally powerful partnerships
a) In a general way, school leaders and teachers consult whānau about the school curriculum, and then the school makes the decisions about the content.	_____	1	2	3	4	5	School, whānau, and the Māori community work together to develop shared understandings about valued outcomes for Māori students.
b) The school curriculum covers Māori culture in a general way.	_____	1	2	3	4	5	Whānau, the Māori community, and the school work together to ensure all value Māori students' culture as a relevant and meaningful part of their learning at school. The school curriculum reflects relevant cultural knowledge, such as about the iwi students are from and the iwi of local marae.
c) There are opportunities for whānau to contribute their views on the school curriculum.	_____	1	2	3	4	5	School leaders actively seek out, value, and respond to the views of whānau and the Māori community, for example, in the ongoing review of the school curriculum.

Evidence

Next steps

Professional learning requirements

Teaching and learning at school

Basic engagement						Educationally powerful partnerships
a) All students are given the same learning opportunities and experiences.	1	2	3	4	5	As well as reflecting the New Zealand Curriculum, learning experiences for Māori students relate to outcomes valued by the students, their whānau, and the Māori community.
b) It is accepted that Māori students' achievement is generally lower than for many other groups in the school.	1	2	3	4	5	Working from a strength-based model, leaders and teachers actively prioritise Māori students' achievement, including accelerated progress for Māori learners achieving below expected achievement levels.
c) Teachers have a limited knowledge of local tikanga and culture.	1	2	3	4	5	Teachers and leaders find out about the knowledge, beliefs, values, and aspirations held within whānau and the Māori community, and they use the cultural capital of Māori learners to maximise success.
d) Classroom programmes involve few parents and whānau.	1	2	3	4	5	Whānau, teachers, and school leaders work together to align educational experiences at school and at home. For example, whānau and others with knowledge of local tikanga, history, and language support classroom teaching and learning programmes.
e) School programmes include some cultural activities.	1	2	3	4	5	Leaders provide Māori learners with access to high-quality, culturally relevant programmes and services. School programmes include going out to whānau and the Māori community. The school serves as a community resource, and the community serves as a school resource.

Evidence

Next steps

Professional learning requirements

Teaching and learning at home

Basic engagement						Educationally powerful partnerships
a) Homework draws upon the content knowledge required for classwork.	1	2	3	4	5	Homework promotes the use of local Māori contexts (such as whakapapa, tikanga, language, history, and place) to support Māori students' learning.
b) Homework is set by teachers for students to complete at home.	1	2	3	4	5	Homework aligns school and home learning and comes with clear information for students and whānau about what's expected and how it can be supported.
c) Homework is marked by teachers.	1	2	3	4	5	Providing feedback on home learning (including set homework) is shared between the school, whānau, and students.
d) Experiences outside of school are not usually valued as learning opportunities.	1	2	3	4	5	The school values the contributions Māori students make to events and experiences outside of school and acknowledges how these contributions support the students' learning and development.
e) Homework consists of tasks given to students by teachers.	1	2	3	4	5	School and whānau have opportunities to work together in formalised programmes (such as Reading Together), supported by shared understandings about what best supports Māori students' learning.

Evidence

Next steps

Professional learning requirements

Reporting

Basic engagement						Educationally powerful partnerships
a) Reporting is in relation to expectations for all students derived from the New Zealand Curriculum.	1	2	3	4	5	Reporting is in relation to shared expectations for Māori students' learning and achievement, informed by the New Zealand Curriculum, developed in collaboration with students and whānau, and critiqued and challenged over time.
b) Few whānau attend parent–teacher interviews at the school.	1	2	3	4	5	Most whānau take advantage of the range of options available for discussing Māori students' learning (for example, 3-way student-led conferences; more time per subject; a staff member as the ongoing main contact for whānau).
c) Reporting processes are based on priorities that the school considers most important.	1	2	3	4	5	The school and whānau co-construct a range of reporting processes depending on different needs.
d) Reports (official and unofficial) tend to focus on behaviour and/or non-achievement rather than on strengths and achievements.	1	2	3	4	5	The school's reporting is strengths-focused, based on specific, agreed expectations for Māori students' progress and achievement, and supported by evidence. It enables whānau to share and understand more about their children's learning and how they can support further learning.
e) Reporting to students is usually informal and verbal.	1	2	3	4	5	The school's communications with Māori learners (including for reporting purposes) take a range of forms and demonstrate cross-cultural values of integrity and sincerity.

Evidence

Next steps

Professional learning requirements

Day-to-day involvement in the school community

Basic engagement	Educationally powerful partnerships
<p>a) Whānau rarely visit or drop in at the school.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 2 3 4 5</p>	<p>Whānau are comfortable at the school because Māori values and practices, such as manaakitanga, underpin the school's involvement with whānau and because teachers routinely talk openly with whānau about their children's learning.</p>
<p>b) School newsletters and other communications are available to all families.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 2 3 4 5</p>	<p>Communication between school and whānau is effective and two-way, displaying respect for local Māori culture and following appropriate protocols.</p>
<p>c) Māori are involved with kapa haka, pō whiri, and other such events at the school.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 2 3 4 5</p>	<p>The school's leaders and teachers actively encourage whānau and others with knowledge of local tikanga, history, and language to support classroom teaching and learning programmes on a day-to-day basis.</p>
<p>d) The school is primarily the domain of the principal and staff.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 2 3 4 5</p>	<p>Whānau and school staff share a vision of "the school community" rather than "the school and its community".</p>

Evidence

Next steps

Professional learning requirements

Special events and occasions

Basic engagement	Educationally powerful partnerships
<p>a) Whānau are invited to support special school occasions.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 2 3 4 5</p>	<p>Whānau are actively involved in all school occasions, and the school is actively involved in special occasions outside it that are significant to the local Māori community (for example, kapa haka, church and sports events, careers expos, tangi, marae pōwhiri).</p>
<p>b) All parents and community members are welcome at school events.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 2 3 4 5</p>	<p>School and whānau participate in a range of occasions in ways that strengthen school–whānau partnerships. The school supports special events for whānau or the local Māori community (for example by providing facilities for hui).</p>
<p>c) The school occasionally participates in events of the local Māori community.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 2 3 4 5</p>	<p>Through shared understandings of local tikanga and Māori culture, the school’s leaders and teachers follow appropriate protocols when engaging with Māori and explicitly link learning to the Māori calendar and special occasions for the area.</p>

Evidence

Next steps

Professional learning requirements