

Innovative Learning Environments Guide (Inclusion)

Phase	Type	Themes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Early <input type="checkbox"/> Implementation <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidation	<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collaboration & teamwork <input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Design affordances <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Design & process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evaluation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leadership & change <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pedagogy
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Professional development & support <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School structures & organisation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spatial competencies <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Student experience <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teacher experience <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Technology <input type="checkbox"/> Time

What does this do?

The Innovative Learning Environments Guide (Inclusion) is an information sheet that summarises New Zealand Ministry of Education’s set of five strategies for developing innovative learning environments that support all types of learners. It also provides four steps in understanding why pedagogy is integral to innovative learning environments that support inclusion. The sections contained within correspond with to specific pages within the Ministry’ website containing inclusive education guides.

How can it help?

The guide will help educators, principals, and parents better understand the relationship between pedagogy and innovative learning environments. Educators can follow a recommended structured pathway for exploring the six strategies and accompanying guides that will support them in creating an innovative learning environment that is also an inclusive learning environment. Under each of the six strategies is a list of concrete actions with specific tasks that educators can use when implementing the strategy. Key terms (i.e. innovative learning environments, equity and diversity, student-centred, quality learning spaces, etc.) are also available, identified, and defined. Expanding educators’ understanding of key terms invites engagement with concepts that are critical to creating innovative and inclusive learning environments.

An example in practice

South New Brighton School in New Zealand applied one strategy by involving their students in re-designing their own learning spaces and preparing to transition into innovative learning environments. The school followed a design process while keeping in mind their vision of becoming a community of quality learners who nurture the values of citizenship, achievement, responsibility, and effort. As part of the process, students were invited to talk about the kinds of spaces in which they learn best; the types of technology they like; and whether they prefer learning individually or in groups. The furniture, equipment, and spatial configuration of the learning spaces were subsequently adjusted to better suit the needs identified by the students. The pedagogy in the learning spaces was also amended to lean towards self-directed learning. Educators also started team teaching to maximise individual strengths and skills of each team member. According to one of the teachers, Kurt Soares, it was a very easy process to undertake and he felt that it has helped improve learning in his class. You can watch a video where he talks about redesigning the learning space with his students via this link: <https://www.inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/planning-innovative-learning-environments-iles/involve-students-in-designing-routines-for-the-ile> [Correct as at 10 March 2020]

Where can I find this?¹

The information sheet is available to download for free at <https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/assets/inclusive-education/MOE-publications/MOE-ILEs-Guide-Summary.pdf>.

More information about the Ministry’s strategies are available at <https://www.inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/planning-innovative-learning-environments-iles/> [Correct as at 10 March 2020].

1. All Spatial Transition Pathway ‘Strategies and Tools’ are licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial 4.0 International License and available from iletc.com.au

