

A guide to the Enviroschools Kaupapa

For School Boards of Trustees and Management Teams



**Ka mihi ki a Ranginui, ki a Papatūānuku,
Ka mihi ki te ngao o te wheiao.**

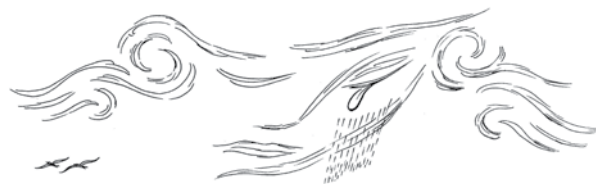
Nau mai haere mai - welcome to the Enviroschools Kaupapa!

This document is designed to support Boards of Trustees and management teams in becoming confident with the Enviroschools kaupapa and, how it can be embedded in the strategy of your school.

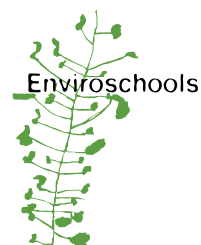
Enviroschools is a holistic kaupapa working to co-create resilient and sustainable communities through learning and action – a nationwide movement for positive change that you are a part of! Across the motu we are seeing thousands of innovative and inspiring ways to care for Papatūānuku, learn creatively and live healthy, sustainable lives.

The network includes over 1,500 schools and early childhood centres – all on unique, self-paced pathways towards sustainability. Nationally, Enviroschools is supported by Toimata Foundation and founding partner Te Mauri Tau, alongside 90+ regional partners that include councils and early childhood education associations.

School communities develop skills, understanding, knowledge and confidence through planning, design and creating a sustainable place. Learning and action projects are led by young people with the support of adults around them.



TOIMATA
FOUNDATION



NATIONWIDE
as at November 2023

1,560
Enviroschools

14% of all early
childhood centres
46% of all primary and
intermediate
35% of all secondary

363,000+
Tamariki and students

15,700+
Teachers and other staff

150 Regional Coordinators
and Facilitators

190+ Partners and
Collaborators

Enviroschools Guiding Principles - Ngā Mātāpono

Our kaupapa guides all that we do and is embodied in five guiding principles that underpin the Enviroschools journey and a whole school approach.

Empowered Learners participate in meaningful ways in their community. Their unique perspectives and questions are valued and honoured. They feel connected to the whenua and support each other as a learning community to create meaningful change and hopeful action.	Learning for Sustainability is a holistic, action and future-focused approach to learning, that engages our whole selves and addresses all aspects of our local and global environment.	Te Ao Māori honours tangata whenua of this land. When we are envisioning and taking action for a sustainable future in our community, it is important that we are doing so alongside local hapū.	Respect for Diversity is celebrated, and all forms of identity and ability are respected. Cultural traditions and practices from all people are experienced, valued and appreciated in learning spaces, honouring practices led by that community. Access to safe and engaging learning is available to everyone.	Sustainable Communities act in ways that nurture all aspects of nature, including people, now and in the future. By working together and supporting each other we create safe, healthy, equitable and thriving communities.
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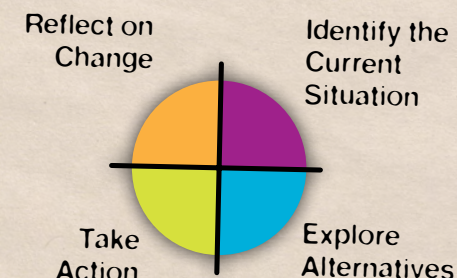
What could Enviroschools Guiding Principles look like in your place?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ākonga getting involved, taking responsibility, standing in their own rangatiratanga, and making decisions • Students planning their curriculum, building their designs, leading projects • Discussing issues with Board members, staff incorporating student ideas into school planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal and relevant learning experiences, reflection and critical thinking, problem solving and decision making • Learning IN, ABOUT and FOR the environment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – IN... sensory experiences in nature, connecting with atua in the environment – ABOUT... mapping soil types, sketching plants and animals, understanding whanaungatanga – inter-relatedness – FOR... buying sustainable products, designing Zero Waste practices, using green technologies, creating native habitats, conserving water and making wise use of energy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring Māori knowledge, grounding learning in mātauranga Māori • Weaving te reo Māori and tikanga Māori into everyday experiences and practices • Honouring tūpuna/ ancestors • Forming authentic reciprocal relationships with tangata whenua • Finding out about pūrakau, karakia, kawa and tikanga held by local hapū. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning opportunities that include languages spoken at home, histories, stories and cultural values • Spaces that reflect different cultural practices, cultural solutions to environmental issues • Discussions that encourage a variety of viewpoints and cater for diverse identities and learning styles • Participatory decision making, a place where a culture of care and inclusion is fostered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working collaboratively with all learners within the community, inter-generational engagement • Conserving and restoring local biodiversity, recycling and minimising waste, using renewable resources • Promoting peaceful and fair practices, fundraising for ecological and ethical projects, considering future generations in planning.
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In Enviroschools, sustainability is integrated into the **whole school or centre life**, by walking our talk and generating learning opportunities on the collective journey towards a healthy peaceful and sustainable environment. This holistic Enviroschools approach covers four key areas:

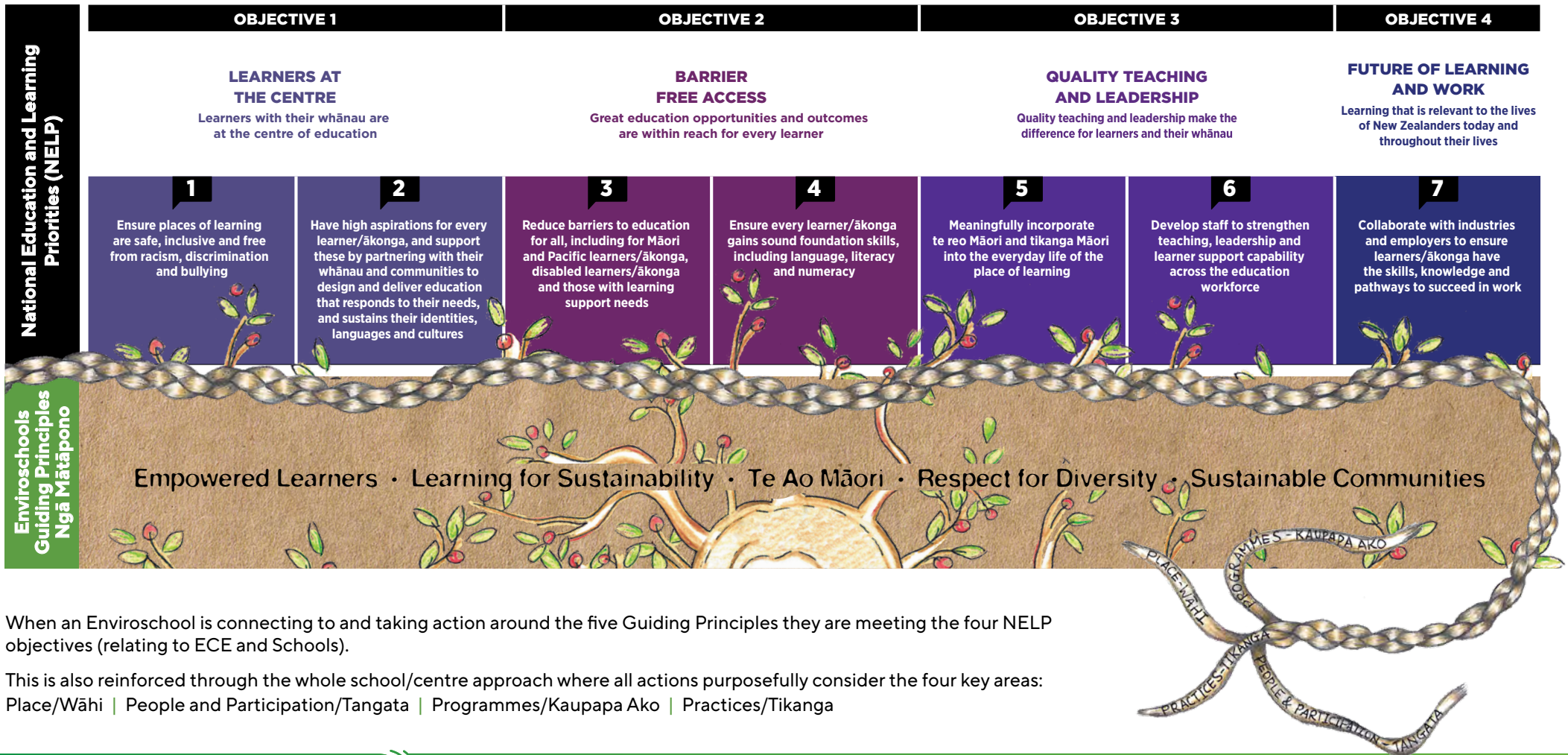
Place – Wāhi | Practices – Tikanga | Programmes – Kaupapa Ako | People and Participation – Tangata

At the heart of Enviroschools is the **Action Learning Cycle**, encouraging an enquiry-based process of exploration, decision-making, design, action and reflection. It is a key tool that can be applied to a specific project or an entire process in an Enviroschools Journey.



Enviroschools and the National Education and Learning Priorities (NELP)

The Enviroschools kaupapa directly links to the NELP objectives and helps to support centres and schools to provide spaces that ensure the wellbeing of all. The five Guiding Principles of Enviroschools support each objective, particularly where they are learner centric, inclusive and incorporate mātauranga Māori.



When an Enviroschool is connecting to and taking action around the five Guiding Principles they are meeting the four NELP objectives (relating to ECE and Schools).

This is also reinforced through the whole school/centre approach where all actions purposefully consider the four key areas:
 Place/Wāhi | People and Participation/Tangata | Programmes/Kaupapa Ako | Practices/Tikanga

Enviroschools Kaupapa - Creating a healthy, peaceful, sustainable world through learning and taking action together.

Things to consider when strategically planning for Enviroschools

Understanding of, and commitment to Enviroschools from management and governance will help support effective strategic planning and engagement for this action-based learning approach.

Enviroschools provides a flexible adaptive framework so centres and schools can design their own unique pathway. Enviroschools processes involve the whole community – young people, teachers, caretakers, management and governance, whānau and the wider community each have roles and responsibilities.

Enviroschools works with the National Curriculum in schools to provide a programme that goes beyond four walls, encompassing a whole school/ centre approach. Curriculum acknowledges both the formal and informal curriculum and considers all influences on learning. This includes the messages that young people receive from their surroundings and role models, and the way in which the school operates and makes decisions.

Enviroschools links to current practice, effective pedagogy, curriculum and both localised and government priorities (NELP). Enviroschools strategies are important mechanisms to support ongoing learning and action – so change becomes embedded in your Enviroschool culture over time.

Support for your school in implementing the Enviroschools Kaupapa

In signing on to be part of Enviroschools, your school is joining a nationwide network of over 1500 schools and early childhood centres on the sustainability pathway.

Your teaching teams have access to:

- regular support from a regional facilitator
- professional development opportunities, online and kanohi ki te kanohi
- interschool sharing and learning opportunities and events
- free resources in an online team area

As a Board and management team, you can access the following resources to help strengthen policies, frameworks and planning:

- strategic planning examples and what to consider
- the Enviroschools Agreement- roles of all involved
- tools to explore the kaupapa and opportunities for your school



Sign into the Enviroschools website Team Area to access the tools and resources below.

- Why is the Enviroschools kaupapa important to our community?
- What does Enviroschools bring to the vision and values of our people and place of learning?
- How is Enviroschools integrated into the four key areas of our school?
 - **Tool 1:** Take each [key area](#) and each paragraph within and ask how this will be reflected in your strategies and implementation.
 - **Tool 2:** [Sustainability survey for governance](#)
- How can we continue to empower all learners?
- What opportunities do we have to learn in, about and for our local ecosystems?
- What local opportunities are there for our learners to develop capabilities such as problem-solving, critical thinking, communication and interpersonal skills through their engagement in co-designed environmental action?
- How will we support all staff to strengthen knowledge and confidence in the [Enviroschools approach and processes](#)? (PD and time to plan, time to work with facilitator and other people in community)
- What are the opportunities around meaningful incorporation of te ao Māori?
- How can we collaborate with local groups, employers and industries to share and build knowledge and skills and identify future pathways for sustainable jobs?
- How can we continue to uphold our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi through our Enviroschools approach?
- How can being an Enviroschool support learning to be safe, healthy and inclusive?
- How will we convey the importance of Enviroschools to new ākonga/whānau/staff and the whole community?
 - There are a range of [media](#) templates you can modify from newsletters to brochures and signs
- What are our responsibilities in order to deliver Enviroschools in a genuine way?
 - **Tool 3:** examples of what some Enviroschools have created – [visions](#) and [strategic plans](#)
 - Enviroschools Agreement (signed by BOT) and commitment from staff

 **enviroschools.org.nz**

