



Our Code | Our Standards

Discussion kit for teacher-led conversations with parents and whānau about the Code of Professional Responsibility

EDUCATION COUNCIL
NEW ZEALAND | Matatū Aotearoa

INTRODUCTION

This kit is to support your engagement with the parents and whānau of your learners about the draft Code of Professional Responsibility.

Teachers are amongst the most trusted professionals in New Zealand. For parents and whānau, who entrust their children into the care of teachers, maintaining this trust and confidence is paramount. Knowing that all teachers in the profession have agreed on expectations of high standards of ethical practice can give them that confidence. This is what a Code of Professional Responsibility is all about.

Because you already have established relationships with the parents and whānau of your learners, you are best placed to lead these discussions. This kit offers some tools to assist you in these conversations, which you can choose to use if you wish.

This allows you to frame the draft Code using your own messaging about ethical practice and in a way that reflects the context of your school and community.

In our consultation process we are keen to capture the views of parents and whānau, as well as teachers and learners. We would appreciate your support in doing this, however, it is up to you whether you choose to facilitate discussions with your parent community on this.

SUGGESTED FORUM

You could use an existing parent/whānau group meeting at your school, a meeting of the Board of Trustees, or arrange a separate forum with an invitation to any parent/whānau who is interested in participating. You may also like to include the discussion of the draft Code alongside other engagement processes you are leading with your school community, such looking at your school values.

We advise that you don't simply include a notice about the draft code and the link to the online parent/whānau survey in the school newsletter. It is important for you as leaders to provide the context and to manage the engagement with your school community on these issues.

Please note that the intention of the presentation kit is not to generate discussions about the behaviour of individual teachers. Rather, to lift the conversation to the big picture and seek their views about general expectations of integrity and ethical practice for the teaching profession.

SUGGESTED FORMAT

We have developed a Prezi presentation to structure your discussion. The presentation can be played, forwarded, rewound, replayed or paused to suit the pace of your group. It provides a general agenda for a 20 minute discussion and raises four questions. It is your choice whether you wish to use this or not. You may like to use only part of it, or cover only one of the questions.

THE BIG PICTURE

In leading the discussion, please emphasise the importance of focusing of the 'big picture' of teaching to avoid the detailed discussion on their experiences of individual teachers or particular schools. You may wish to state that if they have concerns about the conduct of a teacher or leader at the school, they need to raise this with the principal, Chair of the Board of Trustees or Education Council.

CAPTURING THEIR FEEDBACK

The simplest way for parents and whānau to provide their feedback is by completing the online parent/whānau survey. The survey should take only about 3-5 minutes. They can complete this individually or as a group. All feedback we receive on the draft code will be considered and will help shape the final version so it is ready for introduction on 1 July 2017.

Here is the link to the online [parent/whānau survey](#).

OUTLINE OF THE PREZI PRESENTATION

Suggested times	Item	Comments
2 mins	Opening video from Graham Stoop, Chief Executive, Education Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In this video Graham introduces the draft Code and invites parents/whānau to have their say.
2 mins	Draft Code of Professional Responsibility: purpose and overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief overview on what the Code of Professional Responsibility is. You may wish to talk about other professions that have codes of ethics or codes of conduct, eg. nurses, social workers, lawyers, doctors etc
5	What makes a great teacher? Brainstorm exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rather than getting their feedback on the entire draft code, we are interested in their views on a few key issues. This first question is a warm up reflection exercise. Ask them to reflect on what qualities make up a great teacher. Ask them to call out words that capture those characteristics. Write up words on a flipchart or whiteboard. This question is also in the online survey using a drop down menu with examples for them to tick.
10	<p>Commitment to learners: How can teachers promote learners' wellbeing and protect them from harm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are some of the ways teachers do this well? What are some behaviours that you would not want to see? <p>Commitment to parents/caregivers and families/whānau: How can teachers engage in respectful relationships with parents/whānau and involve them in decisions about their child's learning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are some of the ways teachers do this well? What are some behaviours that you would not want to see? <p>Commitment to society: How can teachers demonstrate high standards of integrity and be a positive role model</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are some of the ways teachers do this well? What are some behaviours that you would not want to see? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These questions are also in the online survey using a drop down menu with examples for them to tick. You could write up each question on a whiteboard or flipchart, and divide the screen or page in half with positive examples (+) and negative examples (-). Again, ask them to call out the examples and write these up. Reinforce that this is not about discussing the actions of individual teachers, rather, to get a picture of what they value and want to see reflected in the teaching profession's Code of Professional Responsibility.
2 mins	How to provide feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite parents and whānau to take the online survey. The survey can be completed as an individual or as a group. Emphasise that their views are important and will help shape the final code.
1 min	Close and thanks	Please sincerely thank them on our behalf for their time and input.

THANK YOU!

We really appreciate your role in leading these discussions with your school community. If you have any questions or have any feedback, please get in touch by emailing feedback@educationcouncil.org.nz