



Spotlight on

LEARNING

...why we do what we do

Learner Agency



Te Ao Marama
SCHOOL

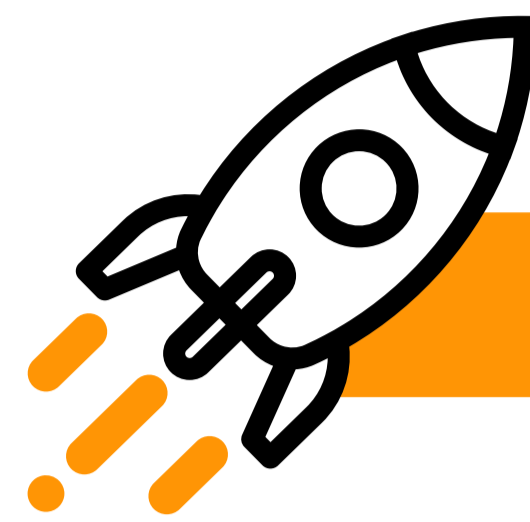


What is

LEARNER AGENCY?

One way of thinking of learner agency is when learners have “the power to act”. Learner agency develops when learners are involved in the whole learning process - including decisions about the curriculum itself, involving learners a lot more in the choices about the **what** as well as the **how** and the **why** of what is being learned. Student voice is another aspect of **agentic** behaviour.

Agency can take many forms; from making decisions about which activity to move onto next, through to learners being empowered to take positive social action in their communities. Providing choices in learning (whether to work individually or in a group; whether to show learning in any way I choose) is an important factor in engagement, which is in turn a contributor to student learning and success.



Why it's

IMPORTANT

Learner agency is embedded in the New Zealand Curriculum's Key Competencies as “the capabilities that young people need for growing, working, and participating in their communities”.



Links to our

VALUES

Learner agency fosters **curiosity** by providing opportunities for learners to take their learning to new places. It encourages **collaboration** with the ability to choose when it's appropriate to work with others. Agentic learners are **confident** in themselves as learners as they learn to identify their skills and next steps, and grow their understanding of how they learn best. Learners can make choices about how to show their learning and evidence their progress, fostering **creativity**. It empowers students to be **community-minded** when making choices about who to share their learning with.



Links to the

RESEARCH

New Zealand Curriculum Online; 'Learner Agency' <https://bit.ly/2rh2QWG>
CORE Education, EdTalks; 'Learner Agency' - Derek Wenmoth <https://bit.ly/2lf00wP>
Ministry of Education; 'Key Competencies at Primary School' <https://bit.ly/2QJZXYP>



It's all about

RELATIONSHIPS

Strong relationships are crucial to the success of empowering students with learner agency. Knowing the learners; their skills, strengths, passions, interests and needs is essential to support them effectively in their learning. It also involves strong relationships between teacher, students and whānau.



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