



Using a tuakana/teina model of learning is important for several reasons, especially in culturally diverse educational settings like New Zealand, where Māori culture plays a significant role. The tuakana/teina model is based on the traditional Māori concept of learning and teaching, where older, more experienced learners (tuakana) support and mentor younger or less experienced learners (teina). Here's why this model is valued:

Cultural Relevance and Respect: Incorporating the tuakana/teina model aligns with the principles of biculturalism in New Zealand, as it acknowledges and respects Māori cultural values and practices. By embracing this traditional approach to learning, schools honor the cultural heritage of Māori and foster cultural pride among Māori students.

Nurturing Relationships and Support: The tuakana/teina model fosters a sense of community and whanaungatanga (family-like relationships) within the classroom. Older students take on mentoring roles, providing emotional support and guidance to their younger peers. This creates a nurturing and inclusive learning environment.

Personalised Learning: The model allows for personalised and differentiated learning experiences. Younger students receive one-on-one or small-group attention from their tuakana, enabling them to progress at their own pace and build confidence in their abilities.

Building Leadership Skills: Older students, as tuakana, develop leadership skills, empathy, and responsibility as they take on mentoring roles. This enhances their self-esteem and sense of contribution to the school community.

Confidence and Motivation: Younger students, or teina, may feel more comfortable seeking help from their tuakana peers rather than always relying on the teacher. This fosters a positive and supportive learning environment, boosting their confidence and motivation.

Cultural Exchange and Learning: The tuakana/teina model encourages cultural exchange and learning between Māori and non-Māori students. It allows students from different backgrounds to understand and appreciate each other's cultures, promoting social cohesion.

Lifelong Learning and Reciprocity: The tuakana/teina model promotes the idea of lifelong learning and reciprocity. As students grow and progress, they can transition from being teina to tuakana, becoming mentors themselves and giving back to the school community.

Sense of Belonging: The model helps create a sense of belonging for Māori students, as it reflects traditional Māori ways of learning and teaching. It also

provides an opportunity for non-Māori students to feel connected to Māori culture and the broader New Zealand identity.

Improved Learning Outcomes: The personalized support and positive relationships fostered through the tuakana/teina model can lead to improved learning outcomes for all students. The sense of belonging and motivation can positively impact academic achievement.

Overall, the tuakana/teina model of learning is a culturally responsive and inclusive approach that promotes mutual respect, cultural appreciation, and meaningful learning experiences. By incorporating this model, schools can create a more equitable and enriching educational environment for all students.



