

Learning te reo Māori during the Novice and Emergent sequences supports students to connect with identity and culture, while deepening their understanding of tikanga mātauranga Māori, and the Māori worldview. As the indigenous language of New Zealand, and an official language, te reo Māori is a taonga. The vitality of te reo Māori plays an integral role in honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi and

strengthening connections with whānau, community, and mana whenua.

For Māori, learning can be a deeply empowering experience of reclaiming their heritage, culture, and language. For non-Māori, it offers a pathway to shared cultural understanding and respect, thereby strengthening New Zealand as a whole.

Novice 1 and 2

In Novice 1 and 2, teachers play a central role in supporting students to build a strong connection between te reo Māori and the cultural values carried within the language.

Teachers guide students to notice how language varies across iwi and how values like manaakitanga and whanaungatanga shape behaviour and relationships. By weaving cultural knowledge into everyday learning, Teachers help students see te reo Māori as a living expression of identity, community, and connection.

While all five modes—speaking, listening, reading, writing, and interacting—are taught, oral language is the foundation for communication in the Novice teaching sequence.

Emergent 1 and 2

In Emergent 1 and 2, Teachers guide students to use pepeha and/or mihi to express identity and share whakapapa and connections to whenua, in both formal and informal contexts.

Teachers show students how kupu whakarite and whakataukī enrich and enhance language and meaning, and that communication reflects collective values and respect for others' perspectives.

Students learn how to use kīwaha to reflect cultural values, humour, emotion, and social norms, and to enrich everyday conversations.

Teachers engage with the maramataka and local mātauranga Māori to create meaningful experiences for students and help deepen their understanding of Māori worldview knowledge.

The Learning Languages area prepares students with the knowledge and practices to access related Curriculum Subjects for Years 11–13, such as Te Reo Māori.