

Learning Te Reo Māori Kuki 'Āirani, Gagana Tokelau, Vagahau Niue, Lea Faka-Tonga, and Gagana Sāmoa during the Novice and Emergent sequences supports students to connect with identity, culture, and community. These languages are central to the wellbeing of Pacific peoples and help preserve New Zealand's linguistic diversity, with teaching grounded in cultural values and respectful communication.

Novice 1 and 2

In Novice 1 and 2, teachers introduce students to foundational language patterns such as greetings, introductions, and simple sentences that reflect core cultural values like respect, family, and identity.

Students establish a culturally grounded communicative base, learning respectful conventions and sociolinguistic norms in familiar contexts such as family, school, and celebrations.

As students progress, teachers guide them to deepen their understanding of sentence structure, pronouns, and possessives, while developing strategies for effective communication.

This ensures that language learning is meaningful, authentic, and connected to lived experience from the beginning.

Emergent 1 and 2

In Emergent 1 and 2, teachers support students to expand from formulaic expressions to connected sentences that describe routines, preferences, and past events.

Students begin to sustain conversations and contribute meaningfully to group activities.

Teachers guide students to use respectful language in a range of settings important to Pacific communities, and to experiment with more complex sentence structures and broader vocabulary.

Students develop sociolinguistic awareness of bilingual contexts and ceremonial language, and are encouraged to engage with cultural perspectives and intergenerational 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 Kuki 'Āirani, Gagana Tokelau, Vagahau Niue, Lea Faka-Tonga, and Gagana Sāmoa.