

Whatu Pōkeka

Activity

4

Suitable for



Outcome:

A whole-school or classroom exercise with students, which looks at how students know they belong and how they feel valued.

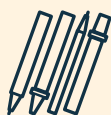
Background:

Having a sense of belonging is a key protective factor for young people. Bullying can undermine this. In this exercise students can explore belonging and in the process make a protective blanket. A whatu pōkeka is a baby blanket lined with feathers to provide warmth, comfort, security and refuge from the elements.

Materials:



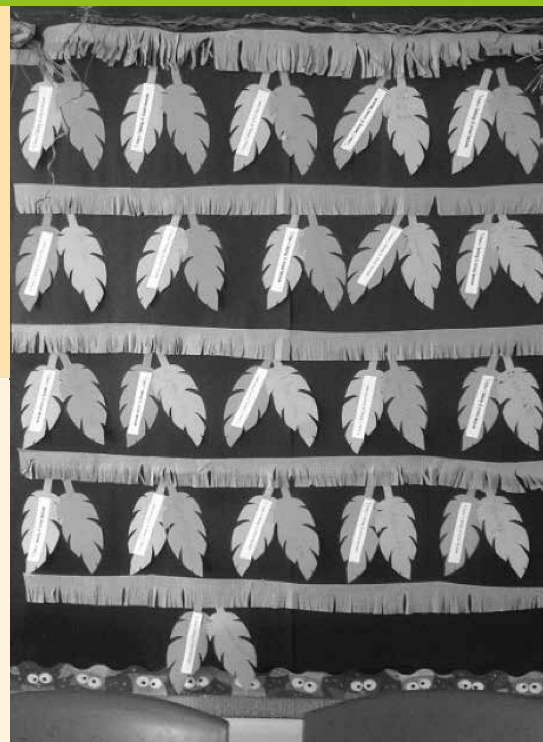
Paper feathers*



Pens



Large sheet of paper or cloth



Method

- Talk about how important it is to feel safe and included at school. Explain the concept of whatu pōkeka.
- Then ask students to finish the following sentences:
 - “I feel valued at school when...”
 - “I know I belong at my school because...”
- Each student writes their answers on their feather, then the feathers are attached to a large sheet of paper to be displayed as a cloak.
- By making a whatu pōkeka, students communicate and discuss how their school can be everyone’s school.
- Involve parents – either by getting them to contribute their own feather or by inviting them into school to see their children’s work.

*You can order orange or blue feathers from *Down the Back of the Chair* or get the students to make their own using the template below.

Thanks to Pauline Muir for sharing image of Witherlea School’s whatu pōkeka.

bullying**freenz**



Whatu Pōkeka

Notes

Lined area for notes, consisting of approximately 25 horizontal lines.

