

CLOVERLEA SCHOOL

KAGAN STRUCTURES



At Cloverlea School, we use Kagan Cooperative Learning Structures. Kagan is a multi-faceted pedagogical approach based on current research in neuroscience that was first developed by Dr Spencer Kagan. When LEGENDs are working collaboratively or having discussions in pairs or small groups, Kagan structures are very specific strategies that can be used to organise the interactions between students. The more our LEGENDs interact with their peers and with the curriculum, the more they will learn and develop a strong sense of whanaungatanga. Kagan structures engage every learner because they require all group members to fully participate with a specific role.

IT IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE:

Cloverlea uses Kagan structures because they align naturally with our LEGEND Values and are a deliberate way we can teach, scaffold and enable learners to practise our values across the curriculum.

Kagan structures provide teachers with the strategies to create an iNclusive learning environment in which all learners can be Determined to participate. Learners are more engaged because they get more opportunities to actively participate in a non-threatening whānau-like environment.

Kagan also helps all our LEGENDs develop strong communication and language skills. Encompasses self-esteem, awareness of language, identity and culture. It provides a safe learning environment where everyone feels they have a place.

CURRICULUM LINKS:

At Cloverlea, Kagan cooperative learning structures are woven through planning for learning across the curriculum. Teachers choose the structure that best fits the learning outcome they want for their class.

We also use Kagan structures through our LEGEND lens, making explicit links between the way we show LEGEND Values when we are using each structure.

Through coaching pairs and groups as they use a structure, teachers help learners develop the skills needed to collaborate effectively.

Using Kagan structures as the process makes curriculum content more engaging and accessible to all learners because all learners are actively participating.

Kagan provides a strong platform that ensures the values and Key Competencies are a natural part of teaching and learning.

WHANAUNGATANGA:

Successful classrooms are classrooms where whanaungatanga is encouraged and developed regularly. There are strong, positive relationships between ākonga and kaiako. Kagan structures provide a way to build whanaungatanga between our LEGENDs and then scaffold deeper learning relationships as a classroom community.

Using Kagan structures, LEGENDs feel like they are on the same side and building and enhancing their mana. They need each other to be successful so they develop a team bond.

Kagan structures foster positive interdependence and equal partnerships between learners while also ensuring all LEGENDs have accountability and their ideas and beliefs are valued.

LINKS TO OUR LEGEND VALUES:

Lead / Ārahi - LEGENDs will know how the structures work, can support their team and are confident to coach other group members.

Excellence / Kairangi - all learners can use the structures and all groups can be successful.

organise / Nahanaha - all group members need to be in the right place, participating in their role for their group to be successful.

resilience / Manawaroa - LEGENDs develop strategies to stay calm and manage conflict when problems occur in their group.

inclusive / Kotahitanga - LEGENDs build positive relationships and are taught the skills to work collaboratively in teams (taking turns, listening, sharing, paraphrasing etc).

Determination / Rae Pakari- LEGENDs need to be Determined to participate fully, take risks and work with their group.

RESEARCH & EVIDENCE:

Numerous research studies have found cooperative learning can have significant positive impact on academic achievement, cultural responsiveness, social skill development, self-esteem, thinking skills, and more. Kagan structures are supported by classroom evidence from schools, and teachers from across the world that are experiencing success with Kagan. For detailed research and evidence see:

https://www.kaganonline.com/free_articles/research_and_rationale/

ENACTING TE TIRITI O WAITANGI:

Article 3 focuses on rights and privileges. Through the use of Kagan, all LEGENDs are able to participate, working on positive interdependence, individual accountability, equal participation and simultaneous interactions. By participating in Kagan Structures, LEGENDs use language to ask and answer questions, ask for and offer help, explain ideas, express opinions, argue, debate and negotiate.

Ārahi, Kairangi, Nahanaha, Manawaroa, Kotahitanga, Rae Pakari

LEAD, EXCELLENCE, ORGANISED, RESILIENCE, INCLUSIVE, DETERMINED