

Te Poipoi Kaiako | Mentor support programme

Programme outline

Tirohanga whānui

Supporting mentors and provisional teachers in Aotearoa New Zealand
Te taunaki i ngā Pou Tautoko me ngā kaiako tārewa i Aotearoa

EDITION 3 – March 2026



In partnership with



Programme outline

Tirohanga whānui

Te Poipoi Kaiako | Mentor support programme is designed for teachers and kaiako in all settings, from early years to senior secondary schools and kura. It is fully funded by the Ministry of Education.

The programme offers a nationally consistent framework and resources that complement participants' professional growth cycle, including:



self-directed e-learning modules



webinars and regional workshops



written guidance and workbooks containing organisers and templates



1:1 support for Pou Tautoko and mentor teachers

There are two complementary strands:

For Mentors

Mentor teachers and Pou Tautoko

Te Poipoi Kaiako helps you to develop the skills and knowledge you need to successfully support provisional teachers (PTs) achieve full certification with the Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand. These skills, strategies, and approaches to mentoring and coaching can be used throughout your career.

For Mentees

Pia, provisional teachers, and overseas trained teachers

Te Poipoi Kaiako supports you to build your teaching practice and navigate the process of achieving full certification with the Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand by applying *Our Code Our Standards* | *Ngā Tikanga Matatika, Ngā Paerewa* (OCOS) to your teaching practice.

Join Te Poipoi Kaiako | Mentor support programme

Please simply fill in the form on our webpage to receive email updates on what is on offer:

[Express your interest >](#)

- core-ed.org/mentor-support

Access programme resources

The Education Learning Management System is the main gateway into bespoke, self-directed resources designed to support your journey through Te Poipoi Kaiako: e-learning modules, guidance, workbooks, workshop slides, and facilitation notes.

Use your Education Sector Logon to access the programme resources:

[Education Learning Management System >](#)

- training.education.govt.nz

Register for webinars and workshops

Please visit our webpage to register and take part in our upcoming webinars and workshops:

[Register for webinars >](#)

[Register for workshops >](#)

Programme components | Ngā wāhanga o te hōtaka

Self-directed e-learning modules

Modules cover topics and activities designed for both mentors and Pou Tautoko, as well as provisional teachers and Pia. They include videos, prompts, examples, and inquiry topics that support your learning and offer insight.

Webinars

In each of terms 2 and 4 of 2026 there will be 2 webinars for mentors and Pou Tautoko. Each webinar focuses on a specific mentoring topic. Participants have an opportunity to share concerns, challenges, suggestions, and ideas with their peers and programme facilitators.

Regional workshops

Our full-day workshops are designed to bring mentors and mentees together in a shared learning space. By learning alongside one another, participants develop a common language, shared understandings, and clarity about expectations. This collective approach strengthens professional relationships and ensures that both parties are working towards the same goals.

The workshops focus on key kaupapa that support the journey toward full registration and are closely aligned with the Standards for the Teaching Profession. Together, mentors and mentees explore what the Standards look like in practice, unpack evidence requirements, and build confidence in gathering and reflecting on professional growth.

During the day, there is also dedicated time for separate, targeted learning. Mentors engage in focused sessions to refine their mentoring practice, strengthen coaching skills, and deepen their understanding of effective professional conversations. At the same time, mentees participate in workshops that extend their understanding of professional practice, expectations for registration, and strategies for demonstrating impact in their teaching. This balanced structure ensures that both mentors and mentees are supported in ways that are purposeful, practical, and aligned to their roles.

There is no charge for kaiako and teachers to attend the workshops.

Refreshments, morning tea and lunch are provided. Travel and release costs are not funded.

The workshops are facilitated in English and te reo Māori and respond to the needs and concerns of attendees.

After each workshop, workshop slides and facilitation notes are available for you to adapt and use in your setting, whether or not you attended the workshop.

Online workshops

If you need to travel more than 2 hrs to attend a face to face workshop, you may prefer to enrol in an online workshop instead. The online workshops cover similar topics to the face-to-face workshops but are tailored for online delivery.



Guidance and workbooks

There are two guidance resources and workbooks: for mentors and Pou Tautoko, the other for mentees and Pia. The workbooks include templates, tables, questions, and prompts to organise important information, record evidence, and keep track of your discussions and actions. You can either print the workbook and use it as a hardcopy reference, or create an electronic copy using the suggested format.

The guidance resources cover the following kaupapa:



Whanaungatanga | Building relationships



Te mahi Pou Tautoko | Being a mentor



Te mōhio ki ngā ākonga kanorau | Understanding diverse learners



Te mōhio ki te hanga marau | Understanding curriculum design



Te waiora | Wellbeing



Ngā taurira me ngā rauemi | Models and resources



**Te tautoko i te PT i te OTT rānei ki te tono rēhitatanga
Supporting PT or OTT to apply for certification**

Each kaupapa includes background notes, strategies, tools, and techniques that contribute to meaningful professional learning and development.

1:1 support for Pou Tautoko and mentor teachers

Pou Tautoko and mentor teachers participating in Te Poipoi Kaiako | Mentor support programme are welcome to contact us at mentor.support@core-ed.ac.nz with requests for light-touch, 1:1 remote support with a facilitator.

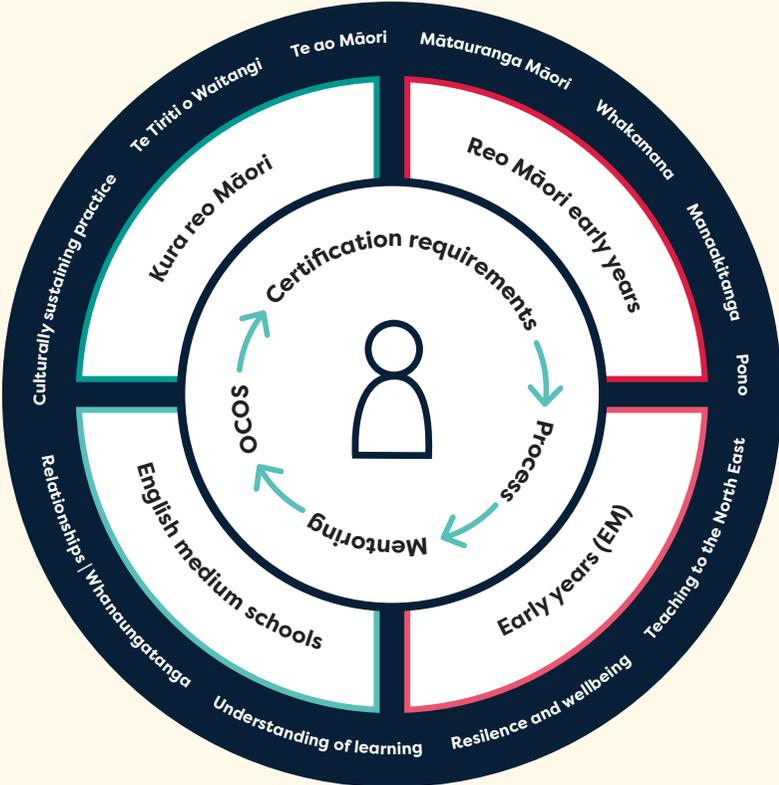
Please note we can only provide support for Pou Tautoko or mentor teachers. If you have a support request (other than questions about the programme itself) as a provisional teacher, Pia, overseas trained teacher, you should liaise with your Pou Tautoko, mentor teacher, setting management, or an appropriate agency.



Anganga Pou Tautoko | Mentoring programme framework

Te Poipoi Kaiako is based on a framework incorporating the essential features of quality teaching in Aotearoa New Zealand which dovetails into your ongoing **Professional Growth Cycle**.

Figure 1: Mentoring programme framework



Frequently asked questions | Pātai auau

Q. Who is Te Poipoi Kaiako | Mentor support programme for?

Mentor teachers and Pou Tautoko, PTs, OTTs and Pia in kura, schools or early years settings across the motu.

There are two strands designed for kura, schools, and early years settings across the motu:

- › Mentors and Pou Tautoko
- › Mentees and Pia – provisional teachers and overseas trained teachers

Q. Does the programme align with Teaching Council | Matatū Aotearoa certification requirements?

Yes. The programme is designed to support provisionally certified kaiako to become fully certified by meeting the expectations laid out in **Our Code Our Standards (OCOS)**. Engaging in a two-year induction and mentoring programme is required to deliver teaching excellence for every tamariki and rangatahi in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Q. What does the programme include?

- › Guidance resources and workbooks
- › Self-directed e-learning modules which can be completed at any time
- › Facilitated webinars
- › Workshops in each of the twelve regions
- › Online workshops
- › One-to-one support for Pou Tautoko and mentor teachers, as required
- › Resources can be used to meet the professional development needs of mentors, Pou Tautoko, mentees, and Pia. They can also be used to complement other resources or courses – nothing is compulsory.

Q. How much does the programme cost?

The programme is fully funded by the Ministry of Education for all participants in state-funded and integrated settings.

Q. Can I seek funding for travel and resource costs?

No. These costs must be met by your setting.

Q. How will this programme benefit me as a new graduate?

Te Poipoi Kaiako | Mentor support programme will help you navigate the registration process, develop plans, set goals, and achieve your PLD objectives. The programme will assist and challenge you to become a fully certified teacher in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Q. Is this programme compulsory for mentors and mentees?

No. It is designed to offer best-practice mentoring that meets **OCOS** expectations. You can engage with the whole programme or select elements that are useful and relevant in your setting.

Q. Is the programme flexible or do I need to complete all parts of it?

The programme is flexible. You can complete parts of it that are most suitable and relevant to you. Or, you can complete all of it.

Q. Who should I contact for support?

mentor.support@core-ed.ac.nz





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**Te Tāhuhu o
te Mātauranga**
Ministry of Education