

LINKING CRITICAL THEORIES TO THE AKO:CRITICAL CYCLE OF LEARNING

Māori students enjoying and achieving success as Māori

85% NCEA Level 2 & qualifications for tertiary education

Fabric of society

Our society is completely set up in every single sector to advantage the advantaged - we all need to address these equity issues full on.

Contexts for learning

The events in Kia Eke Panuku are contexts for learning. The learning is there to support transformative leadership and transformative praxis but the events in themselves don't do this. It's the way of thinking, the way of questioning, the way of being that we take into these contexts which have the potential to be transformative.

Practicing a culturally responsive and relational way of being

I started looking at the critical cycle of learning centred around pedagogy for classroom practitioners but in fact there are multiple groups in the school and out in the community who support that practice. So it's learning at whatever level you're interacting with.

If I am a middle leader in the school then I would be thinking about my learning as a classroom practitioner, and also in terms of the learning of my team, and learning with my colleagues who are also middle leaders. It's learning on multiple levels and it's actually interconnected. So what I'm learning about my classroom practice I should also be applying when I'm being a leader because I'm not just a classroom teacher or just a leader.

I'm a person who practises a culturally responsive and relational way of being. I'm becoming conscious of what my influence is, and that's where the point of learning is for me, where I'm evolving my practice to better realise the kaupapa.

'Penny drop' moments

It's about realising that the job is not just a job. It transforms your whole way of thinking about everything, and your whole way of engaging about everything, in a professional manner, in a personal manner, relationship-wise with your colleagues and with your family.

This critical cycle of learning is not just a programme of professional learning and development that you can just step in and out of. That's why it's important to keep taking more opportunities to have those 'penny drop' moments and enabling increasing numbers of the staff to be involved in the 'critical' conversations.

This document is part of the Voices from Kia Eke Panuku series, written by members of the team to support schools on their Kia Eke Panuku journey.

