



Grow Waitaha

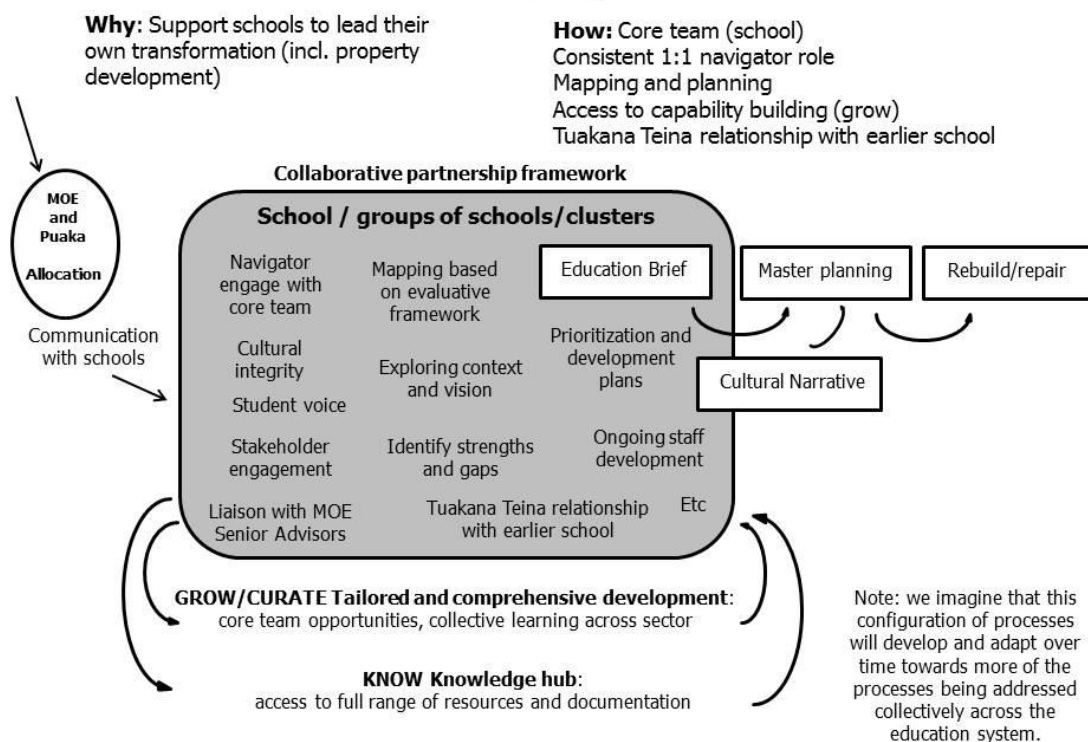
Learners at the centre of change

Why is Grow Waitaha being developed?

The Canterbury earthquakes presented the region with many challenges. Our aim is to turn those challenges into opportunities that support a vision of greater Christchurch as the leading education community in New Zealand, with every child and young person engaged in learning and reaching their potential.

Grow Waitaha came about from conversations with principals and sector leaders regarding the need for support and a framework for professional learning to assist teachers develop innovative collaborative teaching and learning, and to assist educational leaders embrace emerging pedagogies.

Grow Waitaha – programme overview



The focus of Grow Waitaha is on our learners. It is about education inside the buildings and supporting a system where:

- **Students** are actively engaged with teachers in managing and leading their own learning and working towards clear goals
- **Teachers** have the confidence teaching in more collaborative, flexible and connected ways

- **Leaders** are better informed to lead future practice including the design and build process of the Christchurch Schools Rebuild(CSR) programme and creation of an education brief
- **Curriculum** development reinforces identity, language, culture and environment
- **Parents, whanau and community** are engaged and actively supportive of the shifts in practice
- **Schools** as a whole are fully aware and convinced of the rationale for a shift in pedagogy and learning experiences within their school
- **System** capacity is built and shared through collaboration at student, teacher, principal, school and community level

We know many teachers are teaching successfully and many students are achieving and are engaged but, as part of the response to the degree of damage to schools following the earthquakes, we have an opportunity to better meet the needs and aspirations of all learners.

Grow Waitaha is about supporting a shift in pedagogy across the system. We recognise that the expertise to do this exists in many places, particularly in schools. Our intent is to use this distributed knowledge and expertise to build capacity across the education community in Canterbury. Schools and principals working alongside our panel of providers will be the key to the success of Grow Waitaha.

Grow Waitaha will enable schools to further develop appropriate innovative teaching and learning practices that support personalised learning, the use of technologies and enhanced learning outcomes for all learners particularly Maori, Pacifica and those with special educational needs.

Our core goals are to expand teacher's expertise, provide strategies and processes to achieve pedagogical change in a manageable and meaningful way, and to assist teachers meet new challenges. It's about teachers learning something new, making changes to practice, or improving on something they already do or thinking differently about an aspect of practice. The key is collaboration and teachers sharing their successes with their colleagues.

What is Grow Waitaha?

Grow Waitaha is a Ministry of Education funded effort to evolve a panel of education development professionals from which schools, principals, consultants, PLD providers, learners and communities can work in partnership with to access people, resources and experiences that will support:

- development and evolution of innovative teaching practice
- delivery of education briefs outlining how a school sees teaching and learning structured in the future
- development of cutting edge education opportunities, innovations and solutions
- development of networks in order to share and build capability locally, regionally and nationally
- education excellence for all learners particularly Maori, Pacifica and those with special educational needs

The Grow Waitaha process is iterative and will evolve over time to meet the current and changing needs of schools in the Canterbury region.

How will Grow Waitaha support collaboration, change, and development?

We will work with schools to ensure the right support is available at the right time. Priority will be given to schools in or entering the CSR Programme, and schools undergoing major rebuild and development in Canterbury.

Support is custom made to meet the needs of individual schools/clusters and help is available to determine the level of support schools/clusters require.

There are four providers, each with core strengths and expertise involved in the delivery of Grow Waitaha. These providers are committed to working together to work collaboratively with schools so everyone receives the maximum benefit. The framework for Grow Waitaha was prepared in conjunction with the providers, in partnership with iwi and input from principals associations.

Grow Waitaha intends to do just that; to grow with each school it works with in an ever increasing shift towards capability building and collaborative engagement within and between schools to drive their own vision supported by the providers.

Many schools have been changing practice for some time; we recognise that you are all in different places. If you are in the CSR programme and going through master planning, this is additional support to get you in a space where you are ready for the build programme. This support will help you think about how to work in your teaching spaces and deliver the curriculum. It can set you up if you want to change your teaching practices and also if you are going into the build programme later on.

The programme process:

Navigate – support provided to schools to assist them to navigate through the change process including construction of a roadmap outlining the needs and activities required in order to achieve the schools goals.

Grow/Curate - Growth and development opportunities that schools can access to create the changes or consolidation of practice it is working towards. These will be opportunities for learning and sharing of best practice and innovation across the sector.

Know – Documenting, collecting and displaying examples of effective, transformational and innovative practice happening across Canterbury and further afield

Evaluate – A purpose built framework and rubric to identify ‘what is good’ and track progress.

Note: We anticipate opportunities for schools to access relevant parts of the Grow programme through a calendar of workshops even if schools have not participated in all parts of the programme.

What will success look like?

Grow Waitaha is an iterative process and will be evaluated and adapted in partnership with end-users.

Success will be determined by the effectiveness of Grow Waitaha to enable:

- Meaningful processes for leading and managing change
- Sustained performance improvement
- Strengthening of Māori whānau, rūnanga and iwi engagement in education
- The capacity to think and learn beyond subject areas
- Optimized individual development
- More culturally responsive approaches especially for priority learners
- Broadening effective collaboration in classrooms, schools and across the region
- Strengthening of best practice in learning spaces, schools and the region
- Improved pathways planning and transitions
- Understanding of how students learn effectively
- Effective and sustained ways of engaging students
- Pedagogical knowledge and skills combined with technology to assist learners
- Teachers and students building on their own and each others' knowledge and ideas
- Identifying the most effective initiatives and sharing these across the network
- New and innovative solutions to address novel education challenges and opportunities for all learners

To find out more about how to access the programme please contact the project lead, Simon Blatchford on 027 706 6820 or simon.blatchford@education.govt.nz.

