

School-Based Learning in Initial Teacher Education: An Authentic Partnership

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Abstract

While practicum experiences are a part of most initial teacher education programmes, Open Polytechnic | Te Pūkenga recognises successful entry into the profession lies in authentic partnerships between the initial teacher education provider and schools. Our programmes enable partner schools to contribute to the delivery of initial teacher education through school-based learning experiences, while enabling pre-service teachers to contribute to their school community. This partnership model is responsive to a strong sector drive to ensure beginning teachers enter the profession 'work-ready' with extensive practical experience alongside theoretical knowledge, and offers benefits to pre-service teachers and schools. This practice paper describes an authentic partner-driven co-construction of the development and delivery of a fundamental element of the new programmes. School-based learning experiences provide opportunities to observe and critique theoretical knowledge in authentic and situated practice.

Keywords: Initial teacher education, practicum, teacher training, school-based learning

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