



Guiding school groups – notes for guides

1. Introduction to guiding school groups

Guiding students can be an incredibly rewarding experience, where your passion and expertise inspires them to learn. Students learn best when given the opportunity to engage in experiential learning. This allows them to make deeper connections by relating concepts to real-world experiences. As a guide this means talking less, allowing students to take the lead by exploring what interests them and focusing on experiences that engage their senses.

Follow this link for more school guiding information [School Guides Information – Tiritiri Matangi](#)

2. Tips and tricks for your walk

Setting guidelines at the beginning

	Observation of what I saw, heard and experienced	My learning to apply to my guiding practice
School focus The focus will be in the weekly school guide notes, and the educator will brief you on the morning of the school visit. When you meet your group, check in with the students about what they are learning.		

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Student interests Is there anything specifically they are hoping to see/experience, or are passionate or knowledgeable about? Individual student interest may differ from the school focus.		
Establish boundaries State expectations clearly. For example, the guide stays at the front, group keeps together, one person speaks at a time, no running ahead.		

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Engage adult helpers Reiterate to adults they are there to support learning and manage student behaviour. Ask them to help keep the group together.		
Student spotters You've got better eyes and ears than me – be my spotters and listeners!		

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Enthusiasm is contagious Your enthusiasm and excitement will spread amongst the group and help to engage students throughout the walk. Use praise and give positive reinforcement.		

Student-led teachable moments

A teachable moment is a student-led, unplanned learning opportunity. Below are examples that will engage and inspire!

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Allow students to immerse themselves in the experience. Students may not remember all of the facts but they will definitely remember the experience and stories. All of the facts and figures they can learn from the internet.		
Student-led Be present to what students are interested in, and use it as a learning experience. For example, if a child is touching a leaf or feather, use it as a teaching point. This is a great opportunity to bring out the magnifying glasses.		

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Silence is golden Often students will gain more from their experience by just listening to the ngahere and having moments of silence. Closing eyes and listening can be very powerful.		
Interruptions are opportunities Use what is around you and be prepared to stop mid-sentence if something interesting appears or calls! Interruptions are fabulous opportunities for learning.		

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Use things of interest Compare how different birds behave at the sugar feeder, watch birds bathe or drink at the water trough and observe their behaviour, interact with an inquisitive manu on the track.		
Expect the unexpected Spot and explore piles of feathers, poo and other things of interest. “I wonder who had dinner last night?”. Piles of poo are great learning opportunities!		

Notes to self:

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