

# Check & Connect: Mentor job description\*

---

## OVERVIEW

Check & Connect mentors work directly and collaboratively for up to two years with assigned students who are at risk of disengaging from education, implementing strategies that enable them to confidently participate, learn, and achieve. They also work with the students' whānau, school staff, and community service providers. .

## KEY RELATIONSHIPS

The mentor's primary relationships are with the student, their whānau, and school staff. They are part of the team supporting the student. These relationships are at the heart of Check & Connect.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

The Check & Connect mentor will:

- build a trusting relationship with the student over time
- develop with the student a strengths-based, solution-focused plan that emphasises problem-solving skills and resilience building
- work with the assigned student within the contexts of the home, school, and community, developing positive relationships in all three environments
- help the student to successfully meet the everyday demands of the school environment
- help the student to set and work towards personal educational goals and short- and long-term career goals
- help the student to participate at school through understanding their interests, strengths, needs, and educational progress
- work in partnership with the students' teachers, advocating for an environment that enhances the student's sense of belonging and their engagement with learning.

\* Adapted from Christenson et al. (2012), p. 32.

## TASKS

The mentor will:

- meet weekly with the assigned student
- work persistently and consistently with the student for at least two years
- share information and plans regularly with whānau
- complete all tasks as required via the monitoring form
- collaborate with school staff and share information to support the student
- develop a range of responses and activities to engage the student and support them to meet their academic, personal, and career goals
- meet as needed with school staff, the student's whānau, and others in the community to further the student's goals and interests (this will often involve times and places outside of school and school hours; all off-site work must have prior approval from the Check & Connect coordinator)
- attend meetings as required.

## KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND EXPERIENCE

- A sound understanding and knowledge of adolescent development and issues faced by young people
- An understanding of school systems and education processes, including NCEA
- The ability to identify obstacles that stand in the way of successful school engagement

## PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

- The ability to relate to and successfully engage with young people (hononga)
- A firm belief in a 'potential' focus – that all students have agency, strengths, and the capability to learn (mana motuhake)
- The ability to work collaboratively with teachers and other professionals, and to advocate for the student when necessary (whaiwhakaaro)
- The ability to work with whānau comfortably and with integrity, sincerity, and respect, especially when the student's cultural background is different from their own (whanaungatanga)
- A commitment to engage in ways that support cultural competency (e.g., seeking advice from local kaumātua about how to work with whānau Māori) (mohiotanga)
- A commitment to working long-term with the student and their whānau, persisting when things aren't going well (whakamahi).

## QUALIFICATIONS

- Strong experience or a tertiary qualification in a human services field such as education, psychology, social work, mental health, or youth work