



### WHAT IS IT?

Arranging and organising the physical space so all students can see, hear, move freely, and engage to maximise learning and allow for active supervision.

### WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

Working within the space available, the teacher arranges the student learning areas to allow for multiple configurations (circle, rows, groups) to match to the learning activity, while ensuring freedom of movement in a clean and organised space.

Visual displays (e.g. the teaching matrix with school rules, posted routines for behaviour and academic skills) are current.

### WHY?

Effective arrangement of the Physical Environment...

- Increases on-task behaviour.
- Increases perception of safety.
- Supports a respect of others' personal space.
- Makes it easier to reference visual displays.
- Allows for teacher movement (Active Supervision).

### HOW?

#### Class-wide:

- Define spaces, organise storage, reduce clutter and old materials.
- Complete a visual scan of curriculum materials posted throughout the space.
  - Is the content still relevant?
  - Does it reflect the most current behaviour and academic expectations?
- Ensure these tools are in locations where they are needed and easily referenced by teachers and students.

**Whole group:** arrange seating so all students can engage; develop and post routines for safely and efficiently moving desks into different arrangements.

**Small group:** arrange seating so all students can equally participate, limit distractions.

### TIPS?

Partner up for peer feedback; invite a colleague to view your space to make recommendations for improvement.

Review data on recent behaviours and consider how the physical environment contributed and could be adjusted to reduce future occurrences.

Have students practise transitioning furniture into diagrammed arrangements.

Include options for multiple arrangements to support learning activity, such as:

- **Desks in rows:** whole group instruction; assessments; attention toward one instructional location (e.g. "board").
- **Desks in clusters:** small group and cooperative learning.
- **Desks in circle/u-shape:** encourages discussion and participation.