

# How Design Can Impact Learning and Engagement in Classrooms

Ask a person what affects learning and engagement in the classroom and chances are they wouldn't cite design as one of the primary factors.

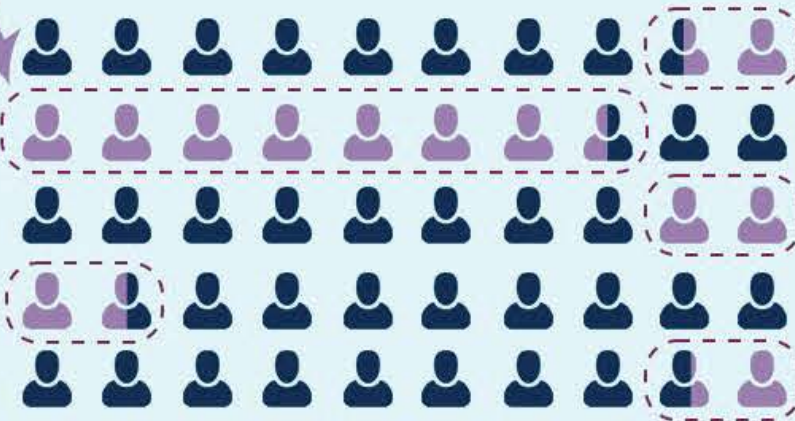
However, ongoing studies by Salford University show that the learning environment can affect student progress by **as much as 25%** throughout the academic year.

To show the effects classroom design has on students, here's a look at the factors affecting learning and engagement in the classroom.

## THE FACTS:

**75%** of the variation in pupil performance can be explained by the built environment.

**15%** of students affected by the air quality of a classroom.

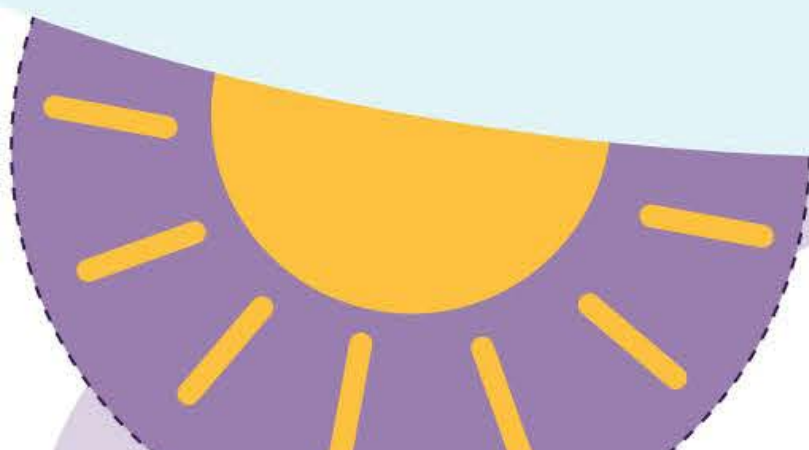
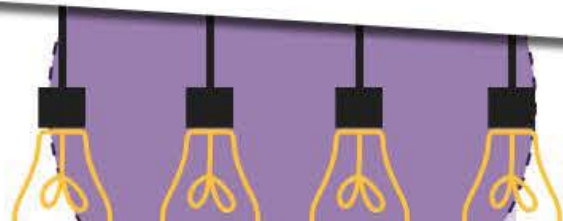


**15%** of pupils show a variation in overall progress because of the learning environment.

**20%** of students affected by the lighting of a classroom.

**12%** of students affected by the colour of a classroom.

## LIGHTING





Aim for **high levels of natural light** via large windows, but beware of glare from direct sunlight - particularly when using interactive whiteboards and projectors.

**Fluorescent lighting** in schools is **linked to hyperactivity** and lack of attention among some pupils.

**Control glare** by installing high quality, opaque blinds that can be easily adjusted by staff and pupils throughout the day.

**Recreate daylight** using **high quality artificial lighting** in areas where natural lighting isn't sufficient.

Good quality lighting **significantly influences reading, vocabulary and Science test scores.**

## DESIGN

The **layout** of a classroom **improves concentration, enhances learning, encourages better behaviour** and is known to improve student progress.

**Classroom design** should **promote collaboration** among students.

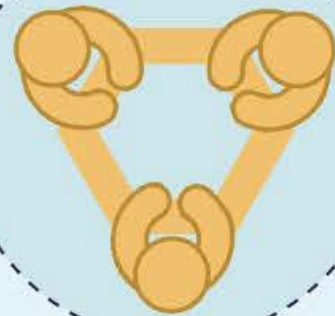
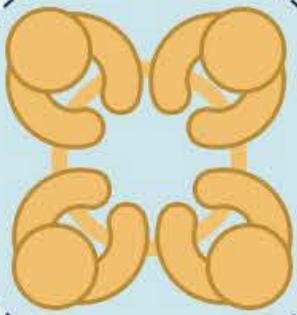
**50%**  
knowledge retention rate for discussion group

**80%**  
retention rate for students teaching others

**Accessible storage is essential in classrooms** - provided it doesn't take up functional learning space.

**Large, blank surfaces** provide an accessible space for **displaying work** and

A **varied floor plan** provides **broader scope for interesting and engaging activity areas** - which is particularly important for younger children. Larger,



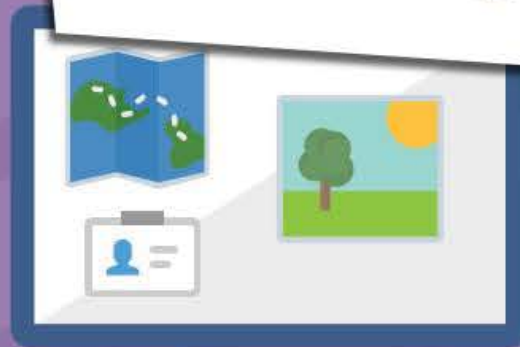


students with information.

simpler classrooms with flexible furnishings are more appropriate for older children.

# PERSONALISATION

Classrooms with **distinct design features** are instantly recognisable, creating a more **comfortable working environment**.



**Chairs and desks** should be **comfortable, durable and ergonomic**, whilst being appropriate for the age group.

**Displaying students' work on the walls encourages progress** and increases productivity by instilling a sense of achievement.

Fixtures, fittings and equipment should be designed to create a **child centric learning space**.

# COLOUR

**Warm colours** such as red, yellow and orange are associated with **activity, happiness and comfort**.



**Colour** is proven to **influence mood and behaviour**, as well as **brain stimulation** and even general health.



**Cool colours** can affect the heart rate, **lower blood pressure** and **reduce behavioural problems**.



**Light walls** with a **brighter coloured feature wall** are proven to be the most **effective for learning** in the classroom.

**Additional colour elements** in the classroom can help to **stimulate student engagement**. Consider adding coloured chairs, blinds or desks to add extra colour elements.



**Visit [www.innova-solutions.co.uk](http://www.innova-solutions.co.uk) for expert advice and inspiration in cutting-edge classroom design.**

Sources:

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