

Spotlight on the Physical Environment

Aspects of the Environment

Teaching as guests in a public school may limit your control over the environment, however taking time to review the environment can support effective teaching and learning.

Consider

- What space will work best for discussion, drama, games and music?
- Can students choose where they complete their magazines?
- Will you be able to see all the students?
- Can they see and hear you clearly?



The environment is sometimes called the 'third teacher.'

This is because it has a huge impact on the activities that can be offered and the way in which students engage in the learning process.

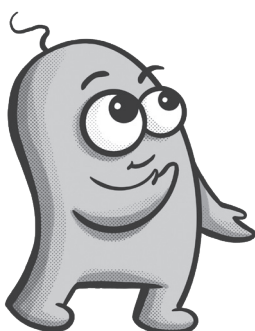
Working with the Environment

- Arrive early and scan the space. What will you need to be aware of as you teach?
- Talk with the classroom teacher and other GodSpace teachers. How do they utilise the environment? Are there mats, lines or markers as cues to divide spaces?
- Seek permission and assistance with things like using the whiteboard or screen, storing Bibles and student magazines, rearranging furniture and access to the space.
- Leave the space neat and tidy, with equipment and furniture as you found it.

Flexible Learning Spaces

These spaces are characterised by areas designed for different types of learning activities. Whilst they may appear daunting at first many schools are reporting benefits -

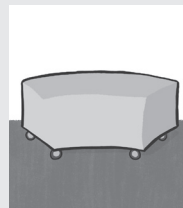
- Improved student choice and responsibility for learning
- Improved learning outcomes
- Flexibility to suit student's needs and preferences
- Teachers can move freely and engage with small groups of students



Common items you may find in a Flexible Learning Space



Wobble balance stools create an intentional wobble effect. Assists children who struggle to sit still or need to fidget to stay focused.



Couches/soft blocks provide different levels for students to work at, different options for seating, and divide space.



Write-on desks allow students to collaborate on shared projects, by writing directly onto the work surface. Always check with the classroom teacher before use.