

## Towards an inclusive classroom

### Top tips for ALL classrooms

An inclusive classroom is a place where every student feels valued, respected, and supported, regardless of their abilities, backgrounds, or learning approaches and differences.

Teachers working towards an inclusive classroom recognise the individual needs of all learners and aim to sustain meaningful engagement from all.

#### Physical Environment

- **Accessible layout:** Classrooms should be wheelchair accessible and have furniture that accommodates all students e.g. footrests, writing slope.
- **Clear signposting:** Use of visual support e.g. visual timetable (consider objects of reference), labels on drawers to promote independence.
- **Ensure environment is not overstimulating:** consider simplifying/ decluttering.

#### Instructional Strategies

- **Scaffolded instruction:** Tasks clearly broken down to meet individual learning needs. Consider processing demands i.e. avoid overload. Regularly review previous learning and check understanding.
- **Clearly identified outcomes for all, most and some:** with models and worked examples.
- **Universal Design for Learning (UDL):** Implement multiple ways of delivery, engagement, representation, and expression for all students. Ensure teaching and learning content is multimodal i.e. visual, auditory, kinaesthetic etc.

#### Social Environment

- **Respectful culture:** Foster a collaborative classroom culture where differences are celebrated and bullying or discrimination is not tolerated.
- **Images and activities promoting belonging:** Recognise individuality alongside all belonging to one class/ one school.
- **Collaborative learning:** Scaffold and support group work/ pair work e.g. give jobs/roles, sentence starters/scripts, practise turn taking for sharing different opinions. Consider role model peers, group dynamics and varying experiences.

#### Emotional Support

- **Teacher-student relationships:** Build strong, positive relationships with all students to understand their individual needs and make use of strength-focused approaches.
- **Emotion literacy:** Utilise frameworks for emotion labelling e.g. Emotion Coaching, Zones of Regulation and activities for self-regulation e.g. Mindfulness, Yoga.
- **Mental health resources:** Be aware and informed of school strategic mental health and wellbeing procedures and referral routes.

#### Curricular Content

- **Ensure concrete apparatus & manipulatives:** Provide resources to enhance, explain and give clarity to learning.
- **Cultural relevance:** Incorporate students' cultural backgrounds into the curriculum to make learning more relatable and meaningful. Use texts and resources that reflect a diverse range of perspectives and experiences.
- **Consider:** Is curriculum content real (does it feature in their experience?), relevant (is it of value for them to know this?), realistic (is the learning goal achievable?) and rational (is the purpose clear?)?

An inclusive classroom is a dynamic and evolving environment where every student has the opportunity to **thrive and belong**.

More specific strategies:  
<https://prezi.com/view/aWODmN3pwqSDnGisrXGw/>