

Wellacre Technology College

School Environment Policy

1. "The way in which work and other materials are displayed and arranged in a classroom is more than a matter of convenience: it is a reflection of the atmosphere and the attitudes which prevail there."
The Arts in Schools: Gulbenkian Report.
2. Attractive surroundings influence both learning and social behaviour. Displays are the focal points of learning. They show to the wider audience what pupils have achieved whilst reaffirming the value of their own work.
3. In line with the remodelling of the workforce and reducing workload, teaching assistants and technicians are available to support teaching staff in the presentation of display work. Most often however, staff will still wish to be responsible for their own displays.

Introduction

It is inevitable that our school and classrooms will make a visual statement - this is often intentional, sometimes accidental. What we do with the classroom environment will ultimately reflect the principles, attitudes and values of each individual within and institution.

It is within the framework of this statement that we should endeavour to create, for the pupils, an environment that promotes "Learning and Social Behaviour. "

In a school, the building and the classrooms may be less than ideal and not what we would have chosen. We share the environment with many people, pupils, parents, ancillaries, governors and colleagues and naturally they will influence the visual surroundings. We as teachers have the ultimate responsibility for the shaping of this visual surrounding. Our responsibility may be focused upon one classroom or area, but we are also able to share the collective development of the school learning environment.

We will not always agree on some issues of display and the learning, tastes will differ and this allows colleagues to express themselves within their classroom. However it is possible to isolate certain underlying principles which underpin the creation of an environment that promotes "Learning and Social Behaviour." We must develop a policy which reflects these principles.

General Classroom Layout

In order to achieve a functional pleasant classroom environment the following points must be considered.

- * Furniture, is it essential and functional? If it's not needed it is cluttering your teaching environment.
- * Essential general equipment only should be on display and easily accessible.
- * Surfaces should be clean and free of clutter. Check each surface daily.
- * Displays should be within clearly defined areas, e.g. display boards, clear clean walls, not around fixtures such as fire extinguishers and not on the ceilings and windows.
- * Classrooms are teaching rooms and not general storerooms. Surplus books, files and equipment should be kept within the faculty or classroom store.
- * Pupil desks should be free and easy to walk around, and where possible, not against walls.
- * All form rooms must have a function "Form Notice Board" which should include the following:
 - . Essential Information.
 - . Form Timetable.
 - . Homework Timetable.
 - . Merit Chart.
 - . Classroom Behaviour Rules.
 - . Effort Grades.
 - . Extra Curricular Activities
 - . Other current events and notices from the bulletin

Displays

The purpose of a display is to enhance our environment to make a statement. Displays should be:

- . Well mounted and trimmed.
- . Clean and regularly changed (1 term **maximum** duration).

Corridor Displays

There are many areas around school which may be considered as faculty areas, (e.g. the PE/Technology corridor). However there are many other grey areas, (e.g. stair wells) which need to be allocated to relevant faculty areas.

Mrs Howarth has a well established system of mounting pupils work in picture frames on the corridor. Specialist faculty work could be mounted in collaboration with Mrs Howarth.

Staff Room

The staff room is a communal area which is the responsibility of all staff

Monitoring of areas

Classrooms will be monitored by each Head of Department. Support and guidance will be given when needed.

Conclusion

The visual impact of our school is paramount to our success. Wellacre must endeavour to strive for excellence in the quality of displays and our environment. We must always remember the importance of first impressions. Seize every opportunity to promote our children and our school.

The Purpose of a Display

The following principles of display are those which influence the learning environment in which we work.

They are:

- . **To arouse curiosity;**
- . **To stimulate enquiry;**
- . **To foster participation;**
- . **To encourage, praise and enhance the efforts of pupils;**
- . **To give information;**
- . **To present materials well;**
- . **To create a visually stimulating learning environment.**

**THE PURPOSE OF A DISPLAY IS TO ENHANCE OUR ENVIRONMENT
AND TO MAKE A STATEMENT!**

Content of Displays

The following objects and materials may be included in displays:

- . Pupils work.
- . Illustrations, photographs, reproductions, original works or art, museum exhibits and posters.
- . Information, data and questions.
- . Additional level descriptors may be added.
 - e.g. This is level 3
 - This is level 5
 - This is a G.C.S.E. grade B

Features of a Good Display

- * Carefully mounted work.
- * Well chosen background colours.
- * Generally aim to keep the outside edges of the frames straight when arranging them on the wall. The internal spaces will look after themselves.
- * Balance is other better achieved by having an odd number of items.
- * Do not clutter a display in order to fit everything in. You will loose the focus.

Planning Your Displays

In order to achieve a good display the following might be considered:

- * The layout and overall effect. Before putting work on the wall collect it all together.
- * Don't put it up straight away.
- * Try arranging it on the table or floor first - look for balance. Once you are happy with it pin it up on the wall - use one staple at first, you may need to move it around a little.
- * Keep in mind a simple, well planned arrangement. The size and shape of the space should be appropriate for what is to be displayed.
- * Staples are the best equipment to use. Velcro fastenings are excellent but expensive. Drawing pins will disappear and distract from pupils work. The use of seloptape on painted surfaces should be avoided.

Mounting Work

All work requires thoughtful mounting with materials chosen carefully.

There are a variety of ways of mounting pupils work, again neutral colours work best. Bright colours may detract the eye from the work being mounted.

Effort should be made to form a contrast between the mount and the work to provide a balance.

Methods of Mounting:

1. Single Mounting

Well trimmed work. Mounted on a contrasting background, i.e. Dark on light, light on dark. A thin line ruled around the work can help to frame it. this method is probably most appropriate for mounting written, word processed or maths work.

2. Double Mounting

This method of mounting will add considerably to the overall effect of the pupils work.

The initial piece of work is mounted first onto a contrasting background which in turn is mounted onto a second background of a different contrasting colour. It is usually better to make the inner mount thinner with a broader outer frame (on a ration of 1:3).

3. Window Mounting

A frame is made out of card creating a picture frame effect. The work is then displayed through the window. This type of mounting is particularly effective with artwork and textiles.

4. Frame Mounting

Pupils work can be placed in a frame on corridors. The work can be changed on a yearly basis within faculty areas.

Tools for the job

It is important that faculties are prepared for the task of assembling and maintaining display work. The following basic items may be included in a basic kit.

- * Staple gun (and staples).
- * Staple remover.
- * Masking tape.
- * Craft knife.
- * Cutting board.
- * Metal ruler.
- * Freeze paper (in various colours).
- * Guillotine (they are expensive but are a worthwhile investment.)
- * **Laminated work is also a good idea in order to keep work clean.**