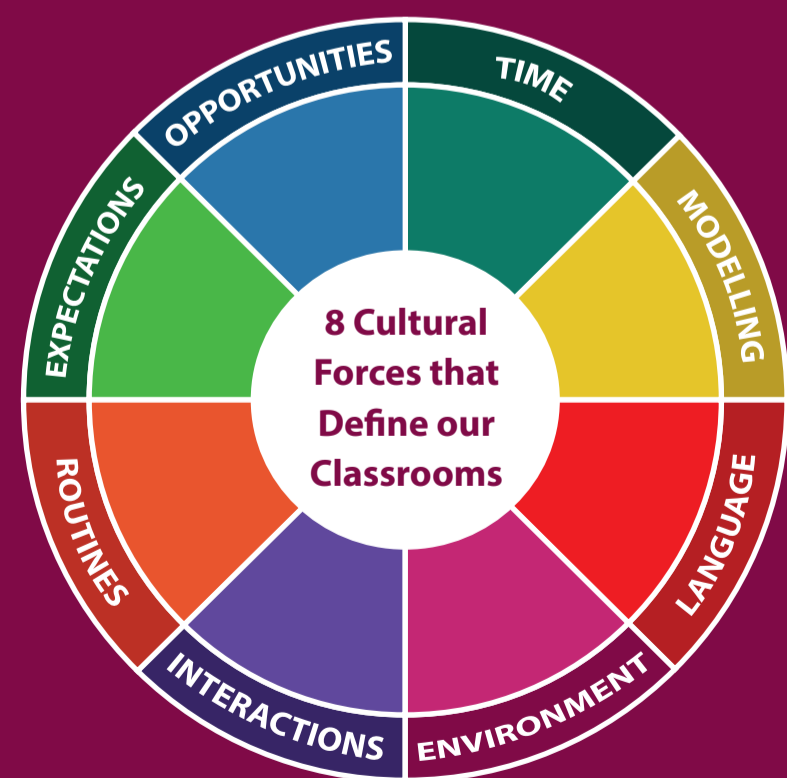


Environment

Using space to support learning and thinking



Source: *Creating Cultures of Thinking* - Ron Ritchhart
Infographic © SpectrumEducation 2018

Physical

Sends messages of how learning will happen – of what is valued, important, expected and encouraged. Physical space is part of the hidden curriculum. Colour, choice, connection, complexity, flexibility, and light all have significant impact. Posters and displays have significant impact. Walls and environment are the third teacher.

Flexibility

- Learning zones, movable furniture zones
 - Play presentation, demonstration, collaboration, wet, creative, quiet, planning, group, individual, reading, lab, dramatic, etc.
- Zones: campfire, watering holes, caves, mountain top.

*Goal of Documentation:
INSPIRE,
INVITE,
INFORM.*

*Do classrooms need to be
focused on the whiteboard
or screen?*

Comfort

- Temperature
- Light
- Noise
- Air quality
- Colour

Your classroom environment speaks to your students before you utter a single word. What is your classroom saying?

"Everyone should have an opportunity to learn in a positive environment, to enjoy the learning process, and feel comfortable and content within it."

- Barry Saide

Invitational Quality

- Homely feel, not institutional
- No more bells and cells
- Sense of surprise, playfulness and humour
- Music in the bathroom
- Music when people arrive
- Get rid of clutter
- Do displays highlight the creativity of your students?

Visibility

Thinking and learning should be visible. Need to document learning and thinking.

- Share the story of learning journey
- Help students connect and build on prior knowledge
- Validating and affirming students as contributors
- Seeing trends, patterns and growth
- Evidence for formative, over time assessment.