



Evidence suggests that the best way to support children in the classroom is to structure the environment and adapt teaching practices in order to reduce the demands placed on working memory. A low arousal environment can significantly enhance concentration, engagement, and overall learning outcomes. Through our inclusive classroom designs at Thameside, we are striving to create calm learning spaces with minimal visual distractions.





In classrooms across the school you will see:

- Hessian backing on our boards
- Display borders are intentionally in team colours to support our SEND children with navigating and transitioning around the school.
- Plants in classrooms (at least one!) to bring nature inside.
- Visual timetables (including 'now and next')
- Phonics frieze or speed sound poster
- History timelines (not on the IWB wall)
- Number lines (not on IWB wall)
- English washing lines (to the side)
- Bunting/chalkboard signage on clear display boards
- Clear surfaces and tidy window sills
- Clearly labelled drawers and cupboards
- Tidy tables with well organised tidies
- Tidy staff areas
- A welcoming, calming, muted book corner - to the back of the room i.e. a cosy corner which is welcoming for children wanting to read.
- The books being read in class on display (shared reading, class reader, English text)
- Walls free of posters and other visual distractions.
- Class door signs and peg labels using templates
- Worry boxes in all rooms
- Medical information on pupils (backs of cupboard doors)
- Phonics intervention chart in FS, Y1, Y2

In our corridors you will see:

- Creative corners and other inspiring areas
- Year group display boards where children's work can be admired.



In addition, there are some key features which are year group specific.