



7 Point Checklist: Get your Environment Promoting Your School Standards For You

Environment is a silent teacher. And it's always teaching.

I've shared with many schools how they can improve their environment to reflect their standards. They are shocked at how small changes make a huge difference.

So how can you improve your space, quickly and easily (because I know that you really are busy).

Here is my 7-point checklist you can apply to almost any space.

1. Clear the surfaces - especially above cupboards, along window sills. If they're being used purposefully that's great, but if not clear them.
2. Brilliant books - it's so nice that most of our spaces have books in, but do they look like we love them or not?
3. Wall execution - what is on the walls? Is it placed purposefully or just stuck up (think grid layout, using picture frames).
4. Paperwork, exercise books - can these be stored more neatly in a magazine folder, box file, basket, or similar.
5. Does what 'should' match, match? That might be chairs or coasters, drawers or display backing.
6. Labels - are things clearly and consistently labelled? This sounds so small and insignificant but I've walked into countless outstanding headteacher's offices and schools and this is something I see time and time again.
7. Coats and bags - are they and can they be put away tidily?

Most of these can be actioned within 30 mins - to an hour.

Even better - allocate one checklist item to a different member of staff.

Why not:

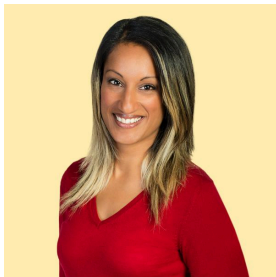
1. Take a before photo
2. Set a 30 min timer
3. And then take an after photo (And I'd always love to see them).

Remember:

Environment is a silent teacher.

It's constantly communicating your standards.

And the standard you walk by, is the standard you accept.



About Sonia Gill

Sonia Gill is the Director of Heads Up, where they specialise in making schools genuinely outstanding.

Schools that they support are 300% more likely to gain or maintain the outstanding judgement than the average - and they don't look at the Ofsted framework.

Come to 'Breaking the Glass Ceiling of Good'.

<https://ukheadsup.com/events/breaking-glass-ceiling-good/>

Learn:

- The little-known secret of how tough schools are giving the best education, without selling their soul
- 4 tools to immediately make your school less stressful, without working more hours (in fact you'll work less)
- The #1 mistake that all good schools are making that keeps them stuck

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