

KINGSGATE SCHOOL FLEXIBLE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

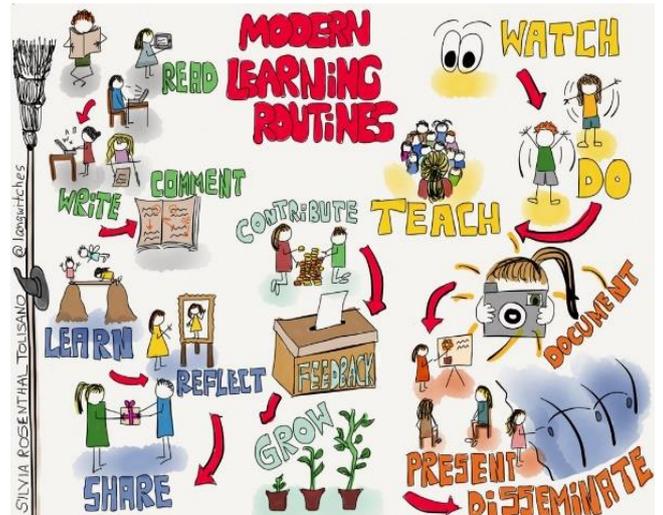
Where did we come from?

Most of the school buildings in New Zealand were built when direct instruction was the norm for teaching and learning. Education was about all students 'learning the same thing at the same time.' This form of education has largely disappeared, but the buildings remain...

We all want quality learning opportunities for our students....

Quality 21st century Learning is a combination of:

- Personalised learning (no two students learn in the same way)
- Learning from each other
- Learning at the pace of the learner
- Learning that is initiated by the students themselves (student agency)
- Learning that is connected to the real world



Learning (classrooms) environments must now begin to support these changes of emphasis in education and so what is now required is flexibility around how classrooms are configured and can be re-configured to help students maximize learning in ways that best suit individual students.

Latest classroom designers coined the phrase and called these 'Modern Learning Environments' (MLEs). These designs included groups of students (equivalent class sizes) in one large space, where there are equivalent 'larger' spaces (to match a class size of students) a shared space and various (smaller) breakout spaces. This is **NOT** a return to the 'open plan' model of the 1970-80's. Although larger 'modern learning environments' (even up to 6, or more equivalent class sizing) are around, research suggests that 3 (equivalent class sizes) is the optimal size for a modern learning environment.

So, what does Modern/Flexible learning environment provide?

- Flexibility - the ability to combine varying groups of students
- Flexibility - of furniture, variety working spaces, fewer desks
- Openness - fewer walls, more glass, common learning areas
- Access to resources - breakout rooms that may be specialised (wet area, IT, special needs) to fit within the student's flow of learning.

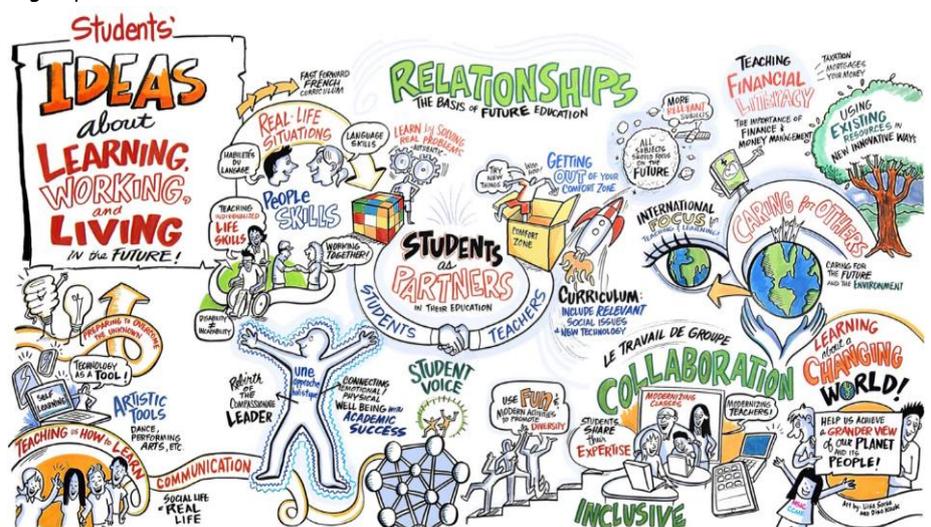
A name change from Modern (MLEs) to Flexible (FLEs)....

- The key to these classroom designs is FLEXIBILITY... flexibility of space, flexibility of grouping (of students), flexibility of learning styles and therefore flexibility in how teachers share their gifts and expertise.

Flexible Learning Environments promote teaching and learning...

These environments effectively promote and support a range of teaching styles including:

- Delivering - teachers will work with groups of students from within a 'home base' within the environment
- Applying - students have a range of spaces in which to apply what they are learning
- Creating - range of space allows for specialised areas for students to create
- Communicating - students (and teachers) have access to a wider range of people to help with learning
- Decision-making - students can make decisions about where they will do their learning, within the flexibility of the learning environment.



At our school

Our Flexible Learning Environment (FLE) will be based on an equivalent 3 class model providing 3 teachers for 75 students. We look forward and are excited to be able to share with you where we are up to with our teaching development through community meetings and through newsletters as we progress through the transition.