

Declutter time!

Back to school starts with an organised classroom.

As a teacher, an organised environment with a good storage system is so important. Does your classroom give clear vibes or clutter vibes? Do you lean towards calm or chaos? Your classroom, like your home, can become cluttered through months of busy lessons day in, day out. You could find you're holding onto old stationery, gadgets, resources or paperwork. It can pile up before you know it.

With many tidying methods, you're encouraged to first see how much 'stuff' you have! Then divide it into different groupings, and one by one, start streamlining. It helps to envision the ideal classroom you'd like to see too! Then start sorting each group...

Books

Throw out books? Never! We hear you, but there might be older titles, damaged books or books that your class will never engage with that are taking up space. You could enlist your students to help sort books into must-keeps, will-reads or nope-nevers. Unwanted books could be donated or given to another class.



Miscellaneous items

This is a huge category that might include 3 broken staplers, a dusty lamp, 275 dried up markers or broken pencils. Discard, discard, discard! Make your tidy desk a great example for your students.

Papers

A typically big category to sort through is paperwork. Empty drawers and cupboards, put everything into a pile and start sorting. Discard old worksheets or out of date lesson plans. Make digital copies of essential papers for safe keeping. Keep that recycling bin close and go for it.



Sentimental items

Children create many 'masterpieces' in their school years and sometimes give their treasured work to their teacher. Do you keep them all? If you're torn, take a photo of a physical memento before gently and lovingly discarding.

A place for everything...

and everything in its place. Designating a home for everything is important. This is important for lots of reasons. Firstly, it will exude a sense of calm. Secondly, it will help you focus on what matters. Thirdly, it will help to empower your students too so they will have a sense of ownership in the classroom and know where to find things.



Storage sorted

Once you've decluttered, consider upgrading your storage. Think functional as well as beautiful. Storage trolleys on wheels, equipment boxes, open shelving or storage cubes could keep your space in order.

Have you decluttered your classroom? Did it change the energy? How did your students respond? Share your ideas with us on Instagram and tag [@modernteaching](#). We'd love to see your results.