



## **BAYFIELD SCHOOL** HERNE BAY

### **Innovative Learning Spaces (ILS) Information**

#### **What is an ILS?**

ILS stands for 'Innovative Learning Spaces' – it describes a flexible, multi-functional, open space with 'breakout spaces or rooms', designed to have good acoustics, lighting, heating and ventilation. The spaces are stimulating areas to share and learn in, and allow for student-centred learning and teaching (rather than the traditional teacher at the front of the class model). The Ministry of Education is encouraging schools to think creatively about the way they teach in these spaces, where students can work independently, or cross-classroom in a more flexible environment. Cross-classroom means children from the same year groups being taught in groups that are based on their level of ability in a subject rather than based on the physical classroom they sit in.

#### **Why the change?**

The majority of school buildings were built between 1950 and 1970. Since then, teaching practice and student learning needs have changed significantly. New technologies and building materials allow for new, vibrant and well-connected learning environments and new teaching methods. These are based on research. Education, in The Knowledge Age, has outgrown single cell classrooms.

#### **What are Bayfield's ILS be configured like?**

Our new classroom block is a two storey building although because of the lay of the land it looks like a single storey building from the main Clifton Road entrance. On each floor of this building there will be two learning 'hubs' of three classroom 'spaces' with one breakout space and a bigger shared space in between the two hubs. There are twelve learning spaces, or four hubs, two on each floor.

The other classroom blocks have been refurbished and opened up to enable them to operate as ILS's.

#### **What else has changed with the introduction of these spaces?**

There will be modern and more flexible furniture in the ILS with students only sitting at tables or desks at some times of the day. At other times they may be sitting on a bean bag, kneeling at a low table or sitting on a higher 'bar' stool and table. Technology devices will continue to be widely used.

#### **Do we have any choice?**

No we don't. The Ministry of Education's vision in the NZ School Property Strategy 2011 – 2021 is to create safe, inspiring learning environments by developing high performing school buildings that are efficient and adaptable, well managed and reflect the pedagogy of an ILS .

#### **Will the way teachers teach and children learn change?**

Yes and No.

#### **What hasn't changed?**

The things that are really important to the way the teachers teach and the children learn at Bayfield (our pedagogy) won't change. Children will continue to be taught at their individual and different levels. Assessment for Learning – the collaborate partnership between the teacher and student, where students know their own learning objectives and outcomes will continue. Inquiry topics to develop critical and creative thinking skills using the NZ Curriculum will be central to the programmes.

Not only will these important features remain they will strengthen in these learning hubs as we cater for different needs. Students will be able to work independently or in small or-larger groups within the classroom spaces and break-out spaces.

### ***What is different from when you went to school?***

These spaces are designed for team teaching. Teachers no longer work in isolation in a single-cell privatised way. They work collaboratively – each hub has two or three teachers depending on the year group, roll numbers or a combination of these factors. Each teacher will teach a variety of groupings of children depending on their individual learning needs. Team teaching allows teachers to teach to their strengths and role-model teamwork. They plan collaboratively in a community type classroom.

There will be greater potential for teachers to cater for different needs in these hubs i.e. children who are working above standard will be able to work in a way that extends and enriches their learning due to flexible grouping. For instance a group of ten children might be being read a very sophisticated novel by one teacher in a break-out space, while others are being read a different novel more suitable to their needs.

Each child will have a Guardian teacher who is their pastoral caregiver and overseer.

### **For more information**

<http://elearning.tki.org.nz/Teaching/Innovative-learning-environments>

<http://core-ed.org/legacy/thought-leadership/white-papers/modern-learning-environments>