

# Professor Peter Barrett

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## Top 10 ways to innovate the K-12 classroom

Along with the more detailed advice and suggestions illustrated here, the key questions to be considered are:

**Stimulation:** Does your classroom use colour and visual complexity to stimulate without creating confusion?

**Individualisation:** Through flexibility and ownership can the children interact and resonate with their classroom base?

**Naturalness:** Does your classroom offer the quality and control of light, heat and fresh air to create a comfortable learning environment?

**Tip 1:** Provide plenty of daylight, but without glare

**Tip 2:** Ensure adequate ventilation

**Tip 3:** Control the temperature

**Tip 4:** Choose the right level flexibility

**Tip 5:** Engender ownership

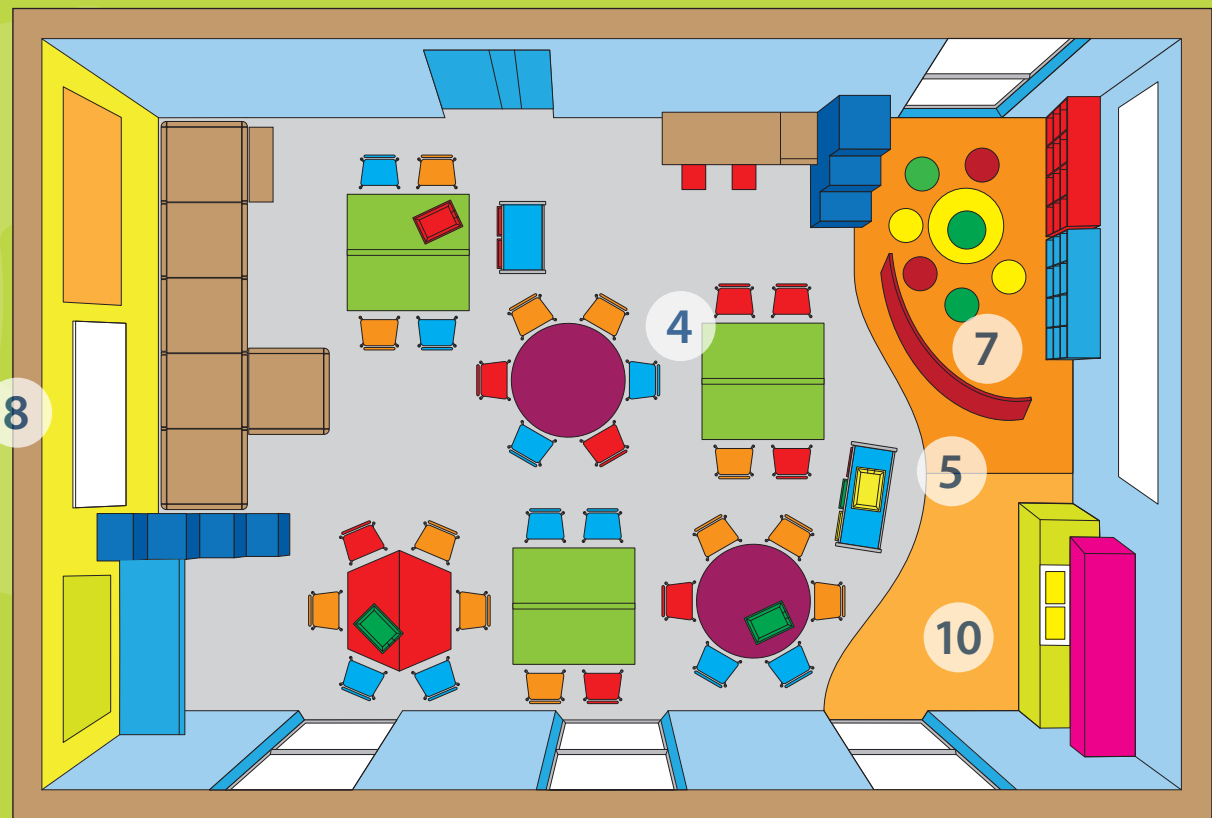
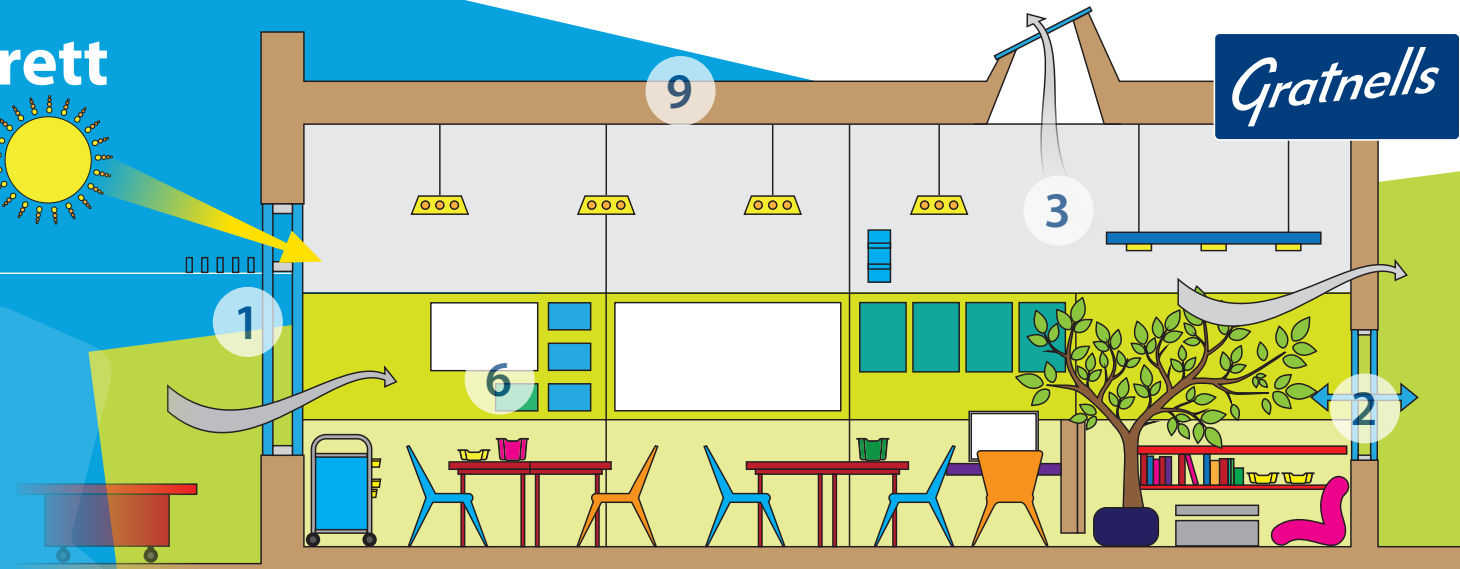
**Tip 6:** Manage the visual complexity

**Tip 7:** Use colour carefully

**Tip 8:** Attack on all fronts!

**Tip 9:** Don't assume a 'good' school means a 'good' classroom

**Tip 10:** Remember to see the classroom as another teaching tool



Tips 8, 9 and 10 are whole school initiatives.

Based on an original design by GDST

## Ask yourself:

### Flexibility

- Can different Learning Zones be created?
- Is there a quiet zone?
- Can different arrangements of furniture be created?
- Is there a variety of furniture?

### Ownership

- Do the classrooms have an individual colour theme?
- Is there adequate space for pupils to display work?
- Is there personalised storage space for the pupils?
- Is there good quality, age appropriate furniture?

### Connectivity

- Are there class displays in the circulation areas?
- Are the classroom entrances distinctive?
- Can the circulation spaces be multi use/libraries?

### Complexity

- Are the class displays on walls too busy or too plain?
- Is the class display material covering too much area (80% or more)?

### Colour

- Is the main wall colour calm?
- Has colour been used on the walls to focus attention to the learning wall?
- Are brighter colours used to highlight and stimulate eg furniture/carpets/blinds?

### Light

- Is there sufficient natural lighting?
- Is there sufficient artificial lighting?
- Are the light fittings clean and working?
- Are the window areas clear?
- Are there displays on the windows blocking light and views?
- Do the blinds all work?

### Temperature

- Does the class overheat?
- Can the heating be controlled from the classroom?
- Is the natural ventilation adequate?
- Can additional external shading be provided?

### Air Quality

- Is there a CO<sup>2</sup> monitor in the class?
- Do the windows open?
- Do the blinds obstruct the ventilation?

### Sound

- Are there any external noise issues?
- Are the floors carpeted?
- Does the furniture have rubber feet?

### Links to Nature

- Can the children view/access the outside?
- Can planting be provided in or outside of the classroom?
- Is there an external teaching space adjacent?

**Gratnells**

To find out more...

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