

North Melbourne Primary School

Location

Victoria, Australia

Enrolment

Prep-Year 6, 850+ students

Space Type

Types C, D and E

School Profile



North Melbourne Primary School, established in 1874, is a government primary school situated in North Melbourne, Victoria. The school caters for over 850 students, from Prep to Grade 6. Their future-focused approach to teaching and learning occurs through engaging in evidence-based practices. Teachers and students are engaged in their learning in a range of flexible spaces that are designed to suit the learning needs of the students. Flexible learning spaces enable students to develop skills they will need in the future, such as collaboration, communication, critical thinking, problem-solving, character, citizenship and creativity.

Their Spatial Transition Journey

North Melbourne Primary School created distinct flexible learning spaces by using retractable walls and withdrawal spaces. Teachers engage in team-teaching to target and individualise the needs of all the students. Direct class instruction lasts for 10 minutes, and then students are able to move to a working space that suits them and their learning style. Students can take advantage of both indoor and outdoor environments—providing them agency to move around, work at tables, on the floor, in small groups, on stools or even standing. With five teachers allocated to 100 students, teachers are able to effectively differentiate, target and extend student learning through collaboration and common goals. Teachers help students to build independence and develop an understanding of the learning space and how they learn best.



To meet the needs of students across the school, North Melbourne Primary School have allocated different flexible learning spaces, known as The Hive, The Clouds, The Comm and The Flex, to different grade levels. The Hive, for example, is allocated to the Grade One and Grade Two classes. Previously, the building was used as a school library, but was transformed into a learning space with one main room and five inner classrooms. Students were initially given time to adjust to the flexible learning space, and learn how to effectively utilise the space. Some of the ways The Hive has been utilised by the teachers and students includes having a shared working space of 81 chairs at tables and an additional 40 off-floor seating options; using neighbouring classrooms for whole- and small-group instructions depending on the needs of the students. Based on their whole-school annual data, North Melbourne Primary School found that flexible learning environments achieved significant growth and positive student learning outcomes above and beyond what was being achieved in traditional classrooms.

More information

Please contact the school at <https://www.northmelbourneps.vic.edu.au/>. All Spatial Transition Case Studies are available from iletc.com.au.

