

CLASSROOM LISTENING AUDIT

Creating a better listening, teaching & learning environment for all

PROBLEM	FREE OR WON'T BREAK THE BANK	CREATIVE ACCOUNTING	FINANCIAL INVESTMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL STUDENTS
Background (ambient) noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Close doors to corridors/hall ☑ Get heating systems checked so that they don't make unnecessary noise ☑ Use soft pads under chair legs or pencil boxes on desks to reduce scraping noises ☑ Encourage your students to value quiet ☑ Turn off computers/printers/projectors when not in use ☑ Close windows to outdoor noise ☑ Position bookshelves and display boards against thin partition walls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Fit acoustic panels. ☑ Fit acoustic partition walls or add doors in open plan buildings ☑ Replace poorly fitting or light weight internal doors ☑ Line partition curtains with acoustic fabric ☑ Seek a trial of a classroom soundfield system (but remember, acoustics must be reasonable for optimum benefit) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Replacement windows – double or triple glazed depending on how intrusive outside environmental noise is. Adults are able to filter out background noise and focus on what sounds are important. This is an emerging skill for children and young teens and is much harder for those with APD or hearing loss. Adults often only realise how intrusive noise can be once it stops!
Reverberation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Use displays or drape fabric on walls ☑ Angle display boards downwards by allowing a gap from the wall at the top of up to 10cm ☑ Create a quiet area/study area with bean bags/soft furnishings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Fit vertical blinds to windows (better than curtains that are rarely drawn) ☑ Carpet the floors! ☑ Fit acoustic panels above display boards in rooms with high ceilings ☑ Fit thick acoustic ceiling tiles over plaster ceilings. Thin ones are almost useless. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Lower the ceilings and fit thick acoustic tiles ☑ Fit soundfield systems in all teaching rooms. ☑ Use amplification in large assembly halls ☑ Fit acoustic battens in noisy dining halls
Distance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Make sure students with hearing or listening problems are appropriately seated – near the front to the side of the room so that they can see you and swivel easily to see others during discussions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ If an Assistive Listening Device or a Soundfield system has been provided, make sure it is used properly, consistently and is well maintained and monitored. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Make all classrooms 2 metres square. JUST KIDDING!!!