



# Your Ideal School

This chapter is about designing a place that would suit you for learning. Have you ever thought about building design? What sorts of things make a school building feel safe, interesting, calm or exciting? Thinking about your ideal school is a fun exercise as it allows you to explore ideas about what would make ‘your ideal school’.

To help you get started, take five minutes to think about all of the things you *don't like* about your school building. For lots of young people, the whole idea of school is heavy, with unpleasant and scary symbols, like a horror story! For example, think about the lights, the toilets, the playground, the dining hall, the indoor PE area – what areas make you feel stressed or scared?

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Write or add to this list of places in your school building that make you feel yuk!

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Here are some questions to ask yourself as you start this exercise.



THE SCHOOL NON-ATTENDER'S WORKBOOK

Environment:

- ◇ Does any part of the school experience make you feel warm and safe?
- ◇ Are there any parts of the school building you don't like?
- ◇ Which do you prefer – being at home or at school?
- ◇ Do you wish your school was smaller or bigger?
- ◇ Would you like to be somewhere else during the day instead of school?
- ◇ Do you think the noise levels at school are okay?
- ◇ Do you think there are good reasons for teachers needing to shout at school?
- ◇ Do you hate communal changing rooms at school?
- ◇ Would you like to spend more time outside during the day?
- ◇ Do you find areas of school too hectic, such as the playground or the corridor?

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To help you design your perfect school, I suggest you get a large piece of plain paper and write on it three headings, 'Essential', 'Would be cool' and 'No way!' Or you could fill in the table. If you need more lines, ask someone to copy it for you. Feel free to add your own words.



