

# Room Layout

Education

What seating arrangements actually change, and how little of it is attainment.

*Choose the layout that suits the task, not the one that signals a philosophy.*

| Layout                   | Suits                       | Costs                  |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Rows facing front</b> | Exposition, individual work | Discussion is awkward  |
| <b>Paired rows</b>       | Talk plus focus             | Some pupils face away  |
| <b>Groups of four</b>    | Collaborative tasks         | Off-task talk rises    |
| <b>Horseshoe</b>         | Whole-class discussion      | Poor for large classes |

Evidence on layout and attainment is weak. Evidence that teacher-assigned seating reduces off-task behaviour is somewhat