Australian Education Research Organisation

Whole-school approach to classroom management reflection

Students entering the classroom

November 2026

A whole-school approach to classroom management creates safe and supportive learning environments for all students by fostering shared understanding and practice. This practice resource is part of a suite of reflection resources that complement the Australian Education Research Organisation (AERO)'s foundational classroom management and professional learning resources.

This reflection resource is designed to help school leaders facilitate staff discussions reflecting on your whole-school approach to students entering the classroom. It will help you identify strengths and opportunities for refinement. It can also be adapted to use with students, parents and primary caregivers.

Preparation for staff reflection

- [ ] Read AERO's A Whole-School Approach to Classroom Management facilitation guide to learn more about our professional learning and reflection resources for leading a whole-school approach to classroom management.
- [ ] Consider using AERO's Evidence-Based Approaches for Effective Classroom Management professional learning resource first to build shared understanding of effective classroom management.
- [ ] Schedule the reflection session with staff and ask them to bring either a digital or printed copy of the Foundational Classroom Management Resources Handbook. Suggest that they read Chapter 6 beforehand.
- [ ] To strengthen the rationale for refining your whole-school approach to students entering the classroom, identify how it aligns with your school's mission, vision, values and strategic goals and is informed by whole-school data (both qualitative and quantitative), including feedback from the school community. Share this alignment and data with staff before or at the beginning of the session.
- [ ] Edit the steps and expectations in the How we support students to safely and calmly enter the classroom section of the reflection tool to reflect your school context.
- [ ] Decide if participants will complete the reflection tool digitally or on paper. If using paper, print enough copies for pairs or groups of 3 to record their reflections. You might also consider using survey software to create a digital version.

Facilitation of staff reflection

- [ ] Clearly communicate the purpose of the session: to reflect on your whole-school approach to students entering the classroom, identifying both strengths and opportunities for refinement.
- [ ] Share how this routine supports your school's mission, vision, values and strategic goals and share relevant whole-school data that staff may not already have access to.
- [ ] Explain that staff will work in groups of 2 or 3, following the instructions on the reflection tool to reflect on your whole-school approach to students entering the classroom.
  - Emphasise the importance of identifying strengths to celebrate and reinforce what's already working well, as well as opportunities for refinement.
  - Optionally, invite groups to share a summary of their reflections with the whole group at the end of the session.
- [ ] Give participants 25 minutes to follow the instructions on the reflection tool.

After staff reflection

- [ ] After the session, collate and review participants' responses to identify:
  - strengths to be celebrated, reinforced and continued
  - priorities for refinement
  - proposed actions to refine your whole-school approach to students entering the classroom, considering the advice in AERO's classroom management resources. AERO has also developed guidance for implementing evidence-based practices in schools, outlining a deliberate and structured approach to implementation based on key research ideas.
- [ ] Share a summary of your findings and next steps with staff shortly after the reflection session.
- [ ] Provide opportunities for staff to discuss, clarify and refine the proposed next steps.

Reflection tool

How we support students to safely and calmly enter the classroom

Our routine and expectations for students entering the classroom

What teachers do:	What students do:
1. Position yourself to see all students. 2. Gain all students' attention and greet them positively. 3. Remind all students of the expectations for entering the classroom. 4. Monitor, provide support and reinforce the behaviour expectations as students enter. 5. Gain all students' attention to be ready for the next instructions.	

Implementing a routine for students to safely and calmly enter the classroom requires consideration of students' diverse needs and involves several skills, including acknowledgement and praise, clear communication, deliberately pausing, non-verbal correction, scanning and voice control.

Teaching this routine

1. Introduce the routine, explaining why it's important.
2. Model, explain and discuss it.
3. Support students to practise it.
4. Ask students to demonstrate it independently when ready. Provide feedback. Practise again.
5. Remind, monitor, support, acknowledge and praise students.
6. Respond to and support students if they don't demonstrate it, practising again when needed.

Instructions

1. Read Chapter 6: Entrance routine of AERO's Foundational Classroom Management Resources Handbook.
2. Use the chapter's checklist items to help answer the reflection questions, ensuring alignment with the evidence-based approaches.
3. Record your responses in the spaces provided.

Reflections

Identifying our strengths

What are we doing well to support all students to safely and calmly enter the classroom, including providing additional support when needed?

How do we know?

Whose perspectives are we considering when reflecting on this routine?

Identifying our opportunities for refinement

Who else should we consult to gather input from all members of our school community to review this routine and identify our strengths and opportunities for refinement?

What could be strengthened to support all students to safely and calmly enter the classroom, including providing additional support when needed?

How do we know?

How might we do this?

What support might be needed?

What else should we consider?

CC BY 4.0.

This publication was funded by the Australian Government Department of Education through the Engaged Classrooms Through Effective Classroom Management Program.