

POST-OCCUPANCY EVALUATION (POE)

Single spaces or single suite of spaces on one site

01

Quick Look

Total time: Approx. 6 months
Contact time: 2.5 days
Delivery: Face to face or online
Workshops: 2
Deliverables: 2
Contact:
info@newlearningenvironments.com

The NLE team is not only highly knowledgeable about how space impacts learning but they also understand the day-to-day operations of a 'classroom' so advice given is always practical. The collaborative nature of the process, conversations with them, advice provided, and their manner of engaging with staff, has led staff to be very open about their successes and challenges and enhanced staff's ability to effectively use the learning environment whilst also building the collective efficacy of the team.

Joann Sayers | Principal | Rainbow Street Public School NSW

02

Overview

A POE is an observation or series of observations designed to capture data and information about how spaces are used and how hard those spaces are working. The primary purpose is to improve the alignment of space with the desired pedagogical practices. POEs are best suited to learning communities that:

- Have teachers that are working in new space types e.g. educators have occupied a new facility within the past 5 years or there are new educators that are unfamiliar with working in that space
- Want to understand how well the space is working and what could be improved
- Want access to data that builds evidence around improved space use that can then be built into future planning and systems across the learning community.
- Want to help teachers work spatial factors into their teaching and planning
- Want to improve space use and pedagogical alignment across their institution through evidence informed policy and process.

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Process

A post-occupancy evaluation process commences with a start-up meeting with school leadership to understand the project context and key requirements/objectives. Depending on the nature of the delivery, NLE will then issue the relevant information and permissions to the school for distribution. 2 observations will be conducted at 6 month intervals using at least 2 tools, one quantitative (measuring what is observed in terms of number of people, spaces used, activities, etc) and one qualitative (more nuanced on the pedagogy and space practice). Observations are typically conducted face to face but it is also possible to do observations via live feed using cameras especially where live observations might be disruptive. After each observation, the data is summarised and presented in a workshop with the observed educators. The purpose is not to critique pedagogical practice but to identify strengths and areas for improvement in the use of space for that practice.

04

Outcomes

Findings are documented in 2 short reports. Each report includes graphs, explanatory text and recommendations.

05

Requirements

The process requires:

- 1x 30-60min start up meeting with leadership to understand the context of the evaluation and any distinct desirable outcomes.
- 2 x full day observations, typically at 6 month intervals i.e. Semester 1 and Semester 2 with consideration given to allowing time to let students and teachers settle into a space and avoiding key calendar disruptors like exams and end of year celebrations.
- 2 x 1-2hr follow-up workshops with the educators, typically within 2 weeks of each observation.
- 1x 30-60min follow up meeting with leadership to review findings and close the project.

