

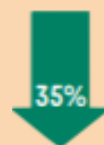
Why do we need to ventilate classrooms?

Poor ventilation can **increase respiratory infections by nearly 50%**¹



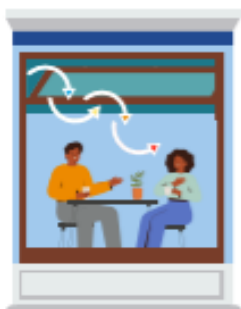
Good ventilation **enhances concentration and cognitive function**²

Good ventilation has been shown to **reduce staff sickness by 35%**³



¹ Building-Associated Risk of Febrile Acute Respiratory Diseases in Army Trainees | JAMA | JAMA Network
² Associations of Cognitive Function Scores with Carbon Dioxide, Ventilation, and Volatile Organic Compound Exposures in Office Workers: A Controlled Exposure Study of Green and Conventional Office Environments | Environmental Health Perspectives | Vol. 124, No. 6
³ Risk of Sick Leave Associated with Outdoor Air Supply Rate, Humidification, and Occupant Complaints - MILTON - 2000 - Indoor Air - Wiley Online Library

Balancing ventilation and warmth



Open high-level windows

Mixing cold air with warmer air helps to reduce draughts.

Open windows slightly

Small openings work well in cold, windy conditions.

Ventilate occasionally

Open windows and/or doors for 10 minutes a few times daily.

Be strategic

Avoid opening windows near busy roads during heavy traffic.



Using CO2 monitors



CO2 monitors make air quality 'visible'

CO2 monitors can be helpful. Consistently high levels tell you when to improve ventilation, while lower readings can indicate when it's ok to close windows – especially useful in colder weather.

800 PPM

1000

1200

1400

1500

No action needed

Take action when levels are consistently over 1500ppm

For information on using CO2 monitors **SCAN HERE**



Not using a CO2 monitor?

You can still identify poorly ventilated spaces without a monitor!

They are likely to:

- Feel or smell stuffy, OR
- Have no open windows or doors, OR
- Have no mechanical ventilation (e.g. extractor fan)

Remember!

Small actions matter. Any improvement in ventilation is beneficial, so do what you can.

Further help and information

Seek support if needed

If CO₂ levels remain high, contact your Health & Safety provider or property maintenance to see how to introduce more fresh air.



Scan the QR codes for further ventilation resources:

CoSchools



SAMHE



DfE guidance



For further information email North Yorkshire Public Health Team at dph@northyorks.gov.uk

* Adapted from work by the University of Sheffield, by kind permission.