What is a Good Learning Environment?

A good school is everyone's right!
Fatima, you’re so smart today! Thanks!

What’s the special occasion?
Oh, no reason... I just want to be on the board this week.

The board? What board?
Our school has a Board of Fame... If you’re the smartest, or you improve in your studies, you get your name there!

They even announce your name at assembly!
Wow! That’s great!

Our school doesn’t have one.

Sorry, Peter. I have to rush. I’ll miss practice!
Practice? For what?

I’m on the debate team. Tomorrow we have a competition.

Really? About what?

The topic is, “In a Good School, students help make the rules.” We are arguing “for”.
Ha! That’s going to be difficult! Students never make the rules!

Oh, but in our school, we have a Student Council. And we help write classroom rules at the beginning of every term.
Really? Your school sounds great! I wish I went there.
Sure! You’re welcome! Why don’t you come with me on Saturday?

You’re going to school on Saturday?
We’re having a school pride day... Everyone is coming to help clean the compound and make it look smart. We’re even planting trees!
Thanks for inviting me!
Good Schools like Fatima’s School have a healthy physical and psychological environment.
A healthy environment can help children develop to their full potential.
So, what is a healthy and supportive environment?

A healthy and supportive environment means many things!
A healthy environment means both the psychological environment and the physical environment.

1. Students have a voice.
2. Our school is violence-free.
3. Girls and boys are valued equally.
4. Our compound is clean and safe.
Our school has a healthy and supportive environment!

1. We have a voice

That means how we think and feel matters!
It means we contribute ideas.
And our ideas help create change!

Yeah!! We have water to wash our hands!
Having a voice means we participate in our own discipline,

we help write our classroom rules ...
and we participate in how our school is run!
Having a voice also means we have the freedom to express ourselves! We have opinions.
We have essay and debate competitions,

Debate Competition

How did she get so clever!

we have music,
and drama

and sports!
Having a voice means our expression is valued.
That’s great! Our school has a healthy supportive environment too!

2. Our school is violence-free

That means there are rules and policies in place to protect everyone!
Violence-free means we feel protected and safe

We feel accepted by our peers
In our school, you can’t bully other students!

Go away!

Hey, give me that!

That’s mine!

Bullying is when someone makes you feel bad or hurts you repeatedly because they are bigger than you.
If someone bullies you, you can report it to the counsellor or head teacher.

They will take action while keeping your talk private.

Your behaviour is not allowed in this school!
In our school, sexual harassment is not acceptable!
No one is allowed to touch your private parts, or do or say things that make you feel bad.

Come to my house after school...I have a surprise for you!
If it happens, you can tell the head teacher or counsellor.

They will protect you and do the right thing!
They use positive discipline.

Violence-free also means our teachers never use fear or shame to punish us.

Zero Tolerance for Corporal Punishment
That’s great!

Our school has a healthy and supportive environment too!

3. Girls and boys are valued equally!
That means girls have the same opportunities as boys:

in the classroom,
in sports

and in our ambitions.

I’m going to be a doctor!

I’m going to be an engineer!

Ooo...

Ooooo
It means girls are not made to do an unequal share of work,

they are never exploited or abused
and their personal needs are cared for.

Madame, I don’t have any sanitary pads. Here, you can use these!

And there is water to wash just there.
That’s fantastic! Our school has a healthy and supportive environment too!

We have a safe and clean compound!

That means how we feel at school affects how we perform!
That’s why a **Good School** is also a clean school

where our classrooms are decorated!

A good school takes care of me too!
We uphold high standards.
There are separate, clean toilets for boys and girls

and the compound is smart and safe!
There are places to play!
There are nice trees and flowers!
We have the basic tools we need for learning!
In our school, what we think... and how we feel matters!
We have a voice!

Our school is violence-free!

Is your school environment...
Girls and boys are valued equally!

Our compound is clean!

And safe!
What can you do to create a child-friendly environment?

- Put up a suggestion box.
- Write class rules together.
- Hold essay and debate competitions.
- Write a school policy on bullying and sexual violence.
- Throw away the cane.
- Post student work in your classrooms.
- Keep the toilets and classrooms clean.
- Plant flowers.
- Have a School Pride Day.
- Visit other schools and share ideas.
- Clean the school compound.
How to use this booklet

• Read this book as a class assignment.
• Ask students and teachers to make a list of what they can do to help children have a voice.
• Make a list of what can be done to make your school violence-free.
• Make a list of what can be done to make your school environment clean and safe.
• Try to do some of the things on your lists.
• Have an essay or speech competition called, “How I feel at school affects how I learn.”
• Involve other teachers by holding discussions in staff meetings.
• Discuss how boys and girls are treated in your school. Are they treated equally?
Notes

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Write your ideas here.
Drama Competition
Next Friday
* Don’t miss!

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