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Ph/Fax 03 327 6843
Free Ph/Fax 0800 FOR JSF
Mobile 021 363 141
0800 367 573

Email bron@jsfid.co.nz
www.justschoolfurniture.co.nz



New Generation

Ergonomic Primary School Furniture



Classroom Handbook

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Just School Furniture Ltd

PO Box 223

Kaipoi

Tel/Fax:

(03) 327 6843

0800 FOR JSF

(0800 367 573)

Mobile:

021 363 141

Email:

brent@jsf Ltd.co.nz

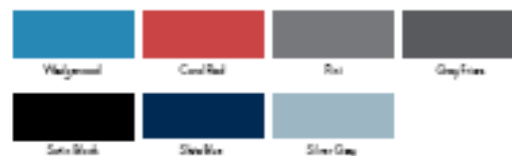
Web site: www.justschoolfurniture.co.nz

Melton / Melamine



All furniture products are available as specified in Melton/Melamine finish. We have 27 colours in our standard range. Other colours available plus PVC. All colours come with matching or contrasting PVC edge as well as Mask. Steel frames may be powdercoated in any one of standard color available. Other colors available + PVC. A minimum charge may apply to smaller orders.

Powdercoating



desk sizing guide

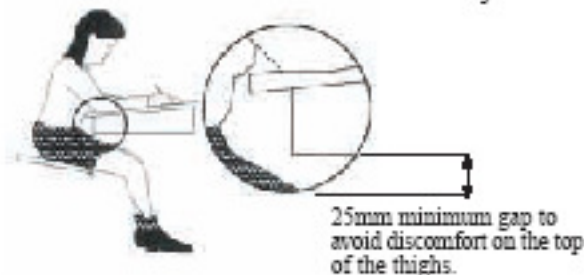
1. The desks have height adjustable legs. As the children grow throughout the year, some attention is required to meet their work surface needs.

2. Sit the child on their correct chair. Ask them to assume an upright forward facing posture with relaxed shoulders and their hands placed gently in their lap.



3. Measure the distance from the floor to the lowest point of their elbow, add 50mm. This is the minimum dimension required from the floor to the front edge of the desk top surface.

4. Check each child for correct fitting. Feet should be placed firmly on the floor. Look for excessive pressure under the thighs as an indication that the chair maybe too high.



5. Label the desk so each child can identify their desk.

6. Check the class at the start of each term for correct height adjustment.



Introduction

The incidence of back pain, and its cost to society is increasing on an accelerated trend throughout the Western World. ACC compensation for back claims increased 25% from \$30.4M in 93/94 to \$37.7M in 94/95. (Wilson 1977)

Our education system provides considerable postural demands on students at a very formative time of their lives. There is evidence that current school furniture and consequent posture is very poor, with detrimental effects to the immediate and future spinal health of the participants. (Wilson 1977)



The high incidence of back discomfort and poor posture amongst school students has been related to school furniture which does not cater for the range of sizes, shapes and physical abilities of students. Posture and habits adopted during school years may be critical in establishing life long postural habits and patterns of back pain.

Research into problems with existing classroom furniture have been identified by a number of people in NZ. e.g Bruynel and McEwan, 1985, Grimes 1992, Wilson 1995.

Internationally Danish Ergonomist, A.C Mandal has produced a book titled 'The Seated Man' criticizing established furniture design and theory. The British Back Pain Association have recently been focusing on the school environment.



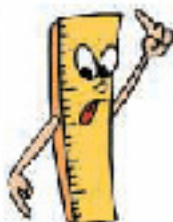
Pain and discomfort leads to loss of concentration on working tasks and frequent changes of position to relieve aches and numbness. This must be disruptive in class and reflect on learning ability.

New Generation Primary School Furniture has been designed to meet the anthropometric needs of school children with a range of school children with a range of fixed height chairs and adjustable height desks. The design includes a Forward Tilt Seat Pan and Angled Work Surface which promotes preferred postural habits early in the 'desk bound' life cycle of children.

Forward Tilt Seatpan



Angled Work Surface



Children

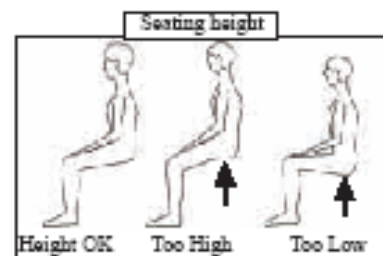
Varying body dimensions and growth rates among children require a range of furniture to accommodate their differences.

1. Line up chairs in height sequence from highest to lowest. each classroom will usually have 3 x sizes of chair.
2. Line up children in height sequence from tallest to shortest.



3. Direct the children to a chair according to the range.

4. Check each child for correct fitting. Feet should be placed firmly on the floor. Look for excessive pressure under the thighs as an indication that the chair maybe too high.



5. Due to the variation in individual body dimensions, some fine tuning maybe required i.e a taller child may require a lower chair and vice-versa. In some cases a child at the extreme of the range may not fit the furniture supplied, please contact the supplier to arrange a suitable replacement.

