

TEACHERS' TOOLKIT OF BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

BEING AN EFFECTIVE CLASSROOM LEADER

The behaviour of the teacher definitely affects the behaviour of the students. The teacher is responsible for setting the correct example in the classroom. Below are a number of strategies that may be helpful in establishing the very best learning environment for all our students.

Before getting into the language of choice and issuing sanctions, set the tone for the lesson by attempting to achieve the following:

- ✓ ***Be on time***
Get there before the class and make them welcome as they come in
- ✓ ***Be organised***
Have the resources out on the desks and work/objectives already on the board
- ✓ ***Be prepared***
Put most of your effort into the first 10 minutes; always have plenty of varied tasks
- ✓ ***Be calm***
Use eye contact and hand gestures wherever possible
- ✓ ***Be positive***
Do not allow any negativity during the lesson
- ✓ ***Be friendly but not a friend***
Learn students' names quickly, then their strengths and weaknesses
- ✓ ***Be polite and respectful***
Remember that they are teenagers, often "with baggage"
- ✓ ***Be confident and professional***
Never let your own standards slip
- ✓ ***Be interesting***
Enthuse about your subject
- ✓ ***Be caring yet firm when necessary***
Let them know that their progress is important to you
- ✓ ***Be pleased when students succeed***
Praise the unexpected as well as the expected
- ✓ ***Be spontaneous and adaptable***
Be prepared to "think on your feet" and change direction if needed
- ✓ ***Be disappointed with misbehaviour not angry***
Doing this shows that you care

- ✓ ***Be human***
Laugh with them at your mistakes
- ✓ ***Be one step ahead***
Keep alternating and changing tactics, strategies and approaches

OTHER HELPFUL STRATEGIES

- ✓ Establish a prompt, calm and orderly start to the lesson
- ✓ Develop and maintain a positive rapport with the students taught
- ✓ Be clear about classroom rules and set clear parameters for behaviour
- ✓ Make sure students know expectations
- ✓ Gain the student's attention quickly when needed to without raising your voice for protracted periods of time
- ✓ Treat the students consistently, with respect and consideration
- ✓ Adhere to the school and departmental discipline policies and observe specific agreed classroom rules
- ✓ Speak assertively, never aggressively
- ✓ Be active, not passive, about establishing the code of conduct expected, stressing the "Dos" and not the "Don'ts"
- ✓ Use sanctions consistently and sparingly
- ✓ Maintain a sense of proportion
- ✓ Use humour to diffuse confrontational situations when appropriate
- ✓ Not be distracted by minor matters
- ✓ React calmly when dealing with challenging behaviour
- ✓ Exude confidence and positive expectations for behaviour
- ✓ Avoid sarcasm
- ✓ Enjoy each day and avoid stress whenever possible