

Top Tips for Managing Behaviour

One of the most difficult things about being a teacher is managing behaviour. In order to be able to teach an effective lesson, it is important that you create a well-managed and structured classroom. Here are some great tips to help you achieve that:

1. **Begin as you mean to go on:** set out your expectations right from day one with clear rules and routines.
2. **Be the leader in your classroom:** it's up to you to set the tone and to model what you expect from your pupils.
3. **Set out rewards and clear sanctions:** ensure that all pupils are aware of these and be fair and consistent when applying them.
4. **Strategically seat your pupils:** have a seating plan that caters for the strengths and weaknesses of all the pupils.
5. **Plan your lessons carefully:** incorporate a variety of activities to meet the varying needs and learning styles of your pupils. Equally, understand that not all lessons go the way we want them to, and be ready to adapt your approach from time to time.
6. **Be welcoming:** meet the pupils at the door with a smile and acknowledge them as individuals. Begin the lesson on a positive footing.
7. **Know your pupils:** this isn't always easy if you only see pupils for a couple of hours per week, but knowing them as individuals will enable you to tailor your approach to them.
8. **Do not waste time:** have a starter activity ready for them as they come into the classroom. This will engage them right from the start - as well as enable you to address off-task behaviour early on.
9. **Pre-empt poor behaviour:** be vigilant and recognise trigger points. Engage a student if you notice they are becoming distracted - ask them a question, make conversation, or give them a job to do.
10. **Try to keep a sense of humour:** you may find this counteracts poor behaviour just as well, if not better than, reacting angrily to the situation.

Please be aware: every child is different. As far as possible, the contents of this resource are reflective of current professional research and are intended for guidance purposes only. The advice and/or information here may not apply specifically to your classroom.