



Top Tips on Creating a Positive Culture and Managing Behaviour

Below you will find a list of useful practical strategies for a creating a successful teaching and learning culture. These are top tips on how to turn the theory on behaviour into practice to be shared with teams.

Professionals who manage behaviour well:

- **Meet and greet at the door** – the best early intervention in behaviour management is at the door¹.
- **Catch learners doing the right thing** – nobody wants insincere praise and it can be easy to catch learners doing the wrong thing. Develop the ability to catch those more challenging students doing the right thing as well as the learners who consistently do the right thing.
- **Deal with poor behaviour privately and calmly** – avoid as much as possible the public humiliation or public sanctioning of learners. This will be destructive to the relationship you've have invested in and is counterproductive. You would be undermining your own professionalism.
- **Relentlessly build mutual trust** – the relationship you have with learners sustains you and carries on into the future. It is worth remembering that positive relationships are continually developing and not exclusively assigned to the first week of a new term.
- **Directly teach the behaviours and learning attitudes you want to see** – have a plan so that you know the behaviours you are trying to teach and the learners know what behaviours they are trying to learn.
- **Talk about values** – never talk about behaviours in isolation – always relate them back to the culture you are trying to build and the values and truths you have as a class and as a teacher. When the classroom or workshop values directly link to a whole organisational system, this helps build a sense of belonging and connection to the college culture. 'This is how we do it here' should be the overarching message.
- **Follow up, follow up, follow up** – professionals who follow up are the ones the learners decide to behave differently for. Write it down if you have a difficult incident with a learner, then you have the control back – you can decide when and how to follow up. Equally, follow up needs to be consistently applied for positive reward or recognition as well as consequences to inappropriate behaviour choices. Ensure that if you promise or commit to something then you are able to follow it up.

¹ Edutopia article: Waldorf Methods to Use in Your Classroom. Six tips to spice up the day. [Malaika Costello-Dougherty](#) August 31, 2009

This how-to article accompanies the feature "[Waldorf-Inspired Public Schools Are on the Rise.](#)"

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