

TEACHING WITH CONTROL: SMART WAYS TO GUIDE PUPILS' BEHAVIOR

by:

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Effective teaching and meaningful learning depend on a well-managed classroom. When pupils behave respectfully and positively, both teachers and learners can focus on the lessons at hand. Behavior management, however, is not merely about enforcing rigid rules or imposing punishment – it is about providing guidance, maintaining consistency, and fostering an atmosphere where pupils feel valued, understood, and motivated to achieve.

"Teaching with control" means guiding pupils toward self-discipline and responsibility through confident, fair, and thoughtful leadership strategies. Teachers are not only sources of knowledge but also leaders and role models. The way they speak, act, and respond sets the tone for how pupils interact and conduct themselves. Students are more likely to emulate teachers who consistently demonstrate respect, patience, and fairness. Effective classroom control requires setting clear boundaries while showing empathy, not practicing authoritarian rule.

One of the most effective ways to guide behavior is by establishing clear and consistent expectations from the very beginning. Pupils must understand what constitutes acceptable conduct and the consequences for breaking the rules. Involving pupils in creating classroom rules helps develop a sense of responsibility and ownership. Displaying the rules prominently and reviewing them regularly reinforces these expectations.

When pupils feel valued and recognized, they are more motivated to behave well. A safe and welcoming classroom environment can be cultivated through positive interactions, such as greeting students daily, offering supportive feedback, and having regular one-on-one check-ins. Trust between teachers and pupils makes students more receptive to guidance and correction.

Focusing on positive behavior is just as important as addressing misconduct. Simple praise, a points system, special privileges, or sending a note of commendation home can encourage pupils to make better choices. Acknowledging small achievements fosters a culture of positivity and accountability.

Sometimes misbehavior stems from boredom or confusion. Engaging, student-centered lessons that include a variety of activities—such as group projects, discussions, games, and hands-on tasks—help maintain students' interest and reduce disruptions. A well-structured class with smooth transitions and clear instructions promotes order and focus.

When discipline is necessary, it should be fair, consistent, and calm. Quiet correction maintains authority, whereas yelling or reacting emotionally can escalate the problem. Nonverbal cues—such as proximity or direct eye contact—can address misbehavior without interrupting the flow of the lesson.

Beyond enforcing rules, teachers should help pupils develop essential life skills such as empathy, self-awareness, and conflict resolution. Activities like role-playing, reflective journaling, and morning meetings can build emotional intelligence, which is key to long-term behavioral growth.

Ultimately, teaching with control is not about being strict—it is about being wise, open-minded, and compassionate. Balancing discipline with understanding, and structure with flexibility, enables teachers to create classrooms where pupils act responsibly because they recognize the value of good behavior, not out of fear, but out of

conviction. In doing so, teachers help shape learners into respectful, responsible citizens both inside and outside the classroom.

References:

<https://www.positiveaction.net/blog/behavior-management-strategies>