

# CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR SENIOR PHASE TEACHERS

Curated by



Improving your senior phase class management skills can significantly enhance your experiences as a teacher, and the skills you develop can also help your students to learn more effectively. The following are tips to improve your class management skills:

- Prepare yourself before the academic year starts.
- Know what you want students to learn.
- Plan and follow a timeline for teaching and allow for flexibility.
- Know in advance the school policies and the support you can expect.
- Be willing to ask for support.
- Have a record-keeping system for all aspects of teaching your class.
- Remind yourself every morning that YOU are in charge of your classroom.
- Accept the responsibility for being in charge.
- Accept the responsibility for teaching your students.
- Believe in yourself, and believe in what you teach.

## **Establishing classroom rules**

Write your classroom rules down, hang them up, and hold yourself and your students accountable to any rules you set for your classroom. Here are some ideas:

- Keep them simple for your students.
- Be consistent and fair.
- Make a printed list of the rules and give each student a copy. Let the students have a copy they can sign and the other by their parents.
- Ensure that substitute teachers know and enforce your rules.
- Have students raise their hands to answer or ask questions.
- Expect your students to be on time punctuality is a trait that will serve them well.
- Don't yell, and don't allow students to yell at either.
- Do not tolerate bullying.
- Altercations will lead to immediate action.
- If your classroom becomes out of control, have a process and take action.
- Create a system that credits good behaviour.

## **Practice while you teach**

Put your classroom management skills to use while you're teaching. Following these tips will help keep your students engaged and help you maintain control of the class.

- Your student's attention spans are limited, so break up lessons to keep your students interested.

- Change the volume and tone of your voice while teaching. An occasional whisper can command attention.
- Find ways to refocus students' attention.
- Pass out papers from side to side.
- Show respect for your students.
- At the end of class, give students an idea of what the next class will involve.
- Walk around while you teach.
- Break students into small groups for special projects.
- Require students to participate and complete their share of the project.

Incorporate these in your class, or use them as the foundation to develop your management ideas. You know your students and your classroom best. Enforce the rules and maintain a classroom you'd be proud of.

To create the best learning environment, you need basic principles to follow and set the foundation. The following are examples that you can use when creating this environment for your students.

## **Practical examples of classroom management**

- **Set guidelines and stick to them**

Every teacher has rules for their class, but teachers who stick to the rules they set are the most effective in managing their classrooms. The key to making class rules is ensuring teachers are not setting students up for failure by creating rules that are too rigid or impossible to abide by consistently.

For example, if a teacher has a "Don't show up for class late" rule, a teacher will want to ensure students have enough time to get from their last class to the next class in a timely manner. If there are students who are not familiar with the school grounds, then a teacher will need to either relax the rule for those students or give them a specific time at which they need to arrive to avoid being late.

Another key to setting classroom guidelines is making rules that a teacher is willing to enforce. Students need to see the end result of what happens when the rules are either followed or not followed, and this needs to be consistent.

Once students figure out that a teacher won't enforce a rigid rule, they will constantly push the boundaries and hinder a teacher's ability to manage the

classroom. So, whatever guidelines are set, ensure they can be lived with and enforced.

- **Engage a class in as many ways as possible**

It used to be that a teacher stood in front of a class and talked, and students dutifully sat in their seats, listened and took notes. Although this method is still used to some extent, its primary teaching method has gone the way of the overhead projector and film strip.

An effective classroom manager engages all students. It's more difficult for students to act out or be disruptive if they are busy planning their next project or creating questions to ask other students when they give presentations. The more involved students are in the learning process, the more they will learn and the easier it will be to manage them.

- **Get parents involved from the start**

Parents involved in their children's education can help you enforce your rules. However, not every parent will show up at a parent-teacher conference night ready and willing to help. This is why you need to reach out to the parents of all your students regularly.

Also, if you approach a parent of a student for whom you have concerns, the parent will be more willing to work with you to find a solution to the concern before it becomes a problem. A good teacher-parent relationship can also alert a teacher to any problems at home that might carry over into the classroom.

Managing a classroom is always a challenge, but laying a good foundation of objectives and goals, applying tools to forward the objective and sticking to the plan will ensure the classroom environment is conducive to both teaching and learning.

Source: 2023