

Positive Behaviour Management

Simon Ward

The youth is rotten from the very bottom of their hearts. Young people are malicious and lazy and will never be as youth used to be before. They will never maintain our culture.

(Babylonian clay pot inscription 2000BC)

Our world has reached a critical stage. Children no longer listen to their parents. The end of the world cannot be that far away.

(Egyptian Priest 2000BC)

Positive Reinforcement

Consider as many 'common-sense' reasons as you can think of for why an approach based on reinforcing appropriate behaviour might work for pupils.

If one behaves as if one has authority, it is surprising how far this attitude exerts a momentum of its own leading pupils to behave accordingly

Kyriacou

Non-assertive

- Overly discursive
- Wants to be liked
- Unclear expectations
- Inconsistent response
- Inappropriate questions
- Pleading, pauses, sighs
- Easily drawn into secondary issues

hostile

- Me vs. them
- Compliance but at what cost?
- Disenfranchising students rights
- Taking full responsibility for children's behaviour
- Minimising choice
- Overly critical or plain aggressive
- Demand compliance
- Unreflective style

assertive

- Makes rights known without trampling on others
- Clear and decisive
- Avoid aggressive or threatening behaviour
- Separate primary and secondary behaviour
- Holds reasonable beliefs
- Least to most intrusive response
- Proactive
- Plans for discipline

‘Kids will learn nothing about their behaviour whilst we are wagging a finger at them’

Bill Rogers

Simple re-direction techniques

- The look
- Proximity praise
- Scanning
- Use of name
- Physical proximity
- Private signals
- Humour
- Take up time

Positive language skills

- Describe the problem
- Positive directions
- Rule reminders
- Choices
- Maybe.....and
- When.....then
- What.....what
- Feedback

DON'T / STOP

- Stop running
- Don't talk to me like that
- Stop tapping your pen
- Don't shout out
- Stop acting like an idiot
- Don't worry about the exams
- Don't spit

Positive language skills

- Describe the problem
- Positive directions
- Rule reminders
- Choices
- Maybe.....and
- When.....then
- What.....what
- Feedback

Classroom discipline plan

Rules (Rights and Responsibilities)

Rewards

Consequences (certainty not severity)

Positive language skills

- Describe the problem
- Positive directions
- Rule reminders
- Choices
- Maybe.....and
- When.....then
- What.....what
- Feedback

CHOICE/AUTONOMY

“Jose, I’ve told you twice to stop talking if you do it again then I’ll move you over there on your own.’

Jose, the instruction is to work silently. If you choose to keep talking, you’ll be choosing to sit on your own over there. If you need my help, let me know...thanks.’

Positive language skills

- Describe the problem
- Positive directions
- Rule reminders
- Choices
- Maybe.....and
- When.....then
- What.....what
- Feedback

TEACHER: 'You're out of your seat.'

STUDENT: 'I'm only getting a pencil.'

TEACHER: 'Don't be ridiculous, it doesn't take that long to get a pencil.'
(rapport lost and escalation)

TEACHER: 'Yes, you do need a pencil for this. Now that you've got one, back to work thanks. I'll be over in a minute to see how it's going.'

Non-confrontational phrases

‘Good try’

‘Could be’

‘Sorry you feel that way’

‘I understand’

‘Wish it worked’

Positive language skills

- Describe the problem
- Positive directions
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Individual management strategies

- Remain calm
- Non-verbal behaviour
- Condemn the act not the person
- Short, clear, firm requests
- Give choice
- Partial agreement
- Broken record

SCENARIO

T: Why haven't you started work?

P: I haven't got a pen have I ? (with attitude)

T: Don't talk to me like that

P: Well I haven't got a pen have I?

T: Well go and get one!! (pupil walks out)

T: Where do you think you are going?

P: To get a pen!!

T: Not out there you idiot, get one off a classmate..if you've got any.

P: Hey John lend us a pen.

J: No get your own

P: He won't give me a pen. (smiling)

T: I'm sick of this, If you can't come in.....

P: Well I forgot , alright!!! (shouting)

T: Go to the head of year

P: It's a rubbish lesson anyway....

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