



Quick Guide: Effective Classroom Behaviour Management

I hope you find this quick guide helpful. Don't forget to check out the discussion questions and suggested answers at the end. You can find more tips for teachers at my popular blog, richardjamesrogers.com.

As my PGCE mentor at Bangor University told the class on our first day of teacher training: *you are a very important person*. If you're struggling with any aspect of teaching, then please be kind to yourself! We all learn at different speeds, and we all make mistakes. Goodness knows that I have made many mistakes in my time as an educator (and I continue to do so).

Try to remember your blunders (keep a journal) and seek help from trusted colleagues.

Feel free to reach out to me at any time too: whether it's for a personal request, a blog post topic request or if you want me to provide some training at your school. I can be reached at info@richardjamesrogers.com

Stay strong. Keep learning. Always be reflective.

Quick Guide: Effective Classroom Behaviour Management

1. Plan Every Lesson Thoroughly

Quality planning prevents chaos. Allocate time to plan pacing, seating, resources, and reward systems. As I often say, investing a few quiet hours (e.g., Sunday morning) saves headaches during the week.

2. Build Genuine Rapport

Positive relationships are foundational.

- Know your students—their interests, hobbies.

- Use humour to make lessons lively.
- Praise frequently, both in and outside class.
- Get involved in extracurricular activities.

3. Use Questioning & Proximity

- Ask direct questions (e.g. "John, what did I just say?") to refocus off-task learners.
- Move around your classroom—your presence near students deters low-level disruption.

4. Pause for Silent Restoration

When noise escalates, stop speaking and wait silently. Students usually self-regulate within 15–20 seconds with "quiet" or "Mr/Ms ___ is waiting." Resume with "Thank you. Now..."

5. Apply Sanctions Fairly & Purposefully

- Be consistent: Apply the same consequences for all.
- Ensure sanctions match the offense.
- Avoid illogical or punitive rules (e.g., blanket detentions for corridor chat).
- Consider whether issues stem from broader behaviour culture.

6. Follow-Up and Monitor

- Ensure sanctions are completed.
- Keep behaviour logs or notes.
- Hold one-on-one follow-ups for progress and accountability.

7. Share Strategies with Colleagues

Collective management builds consistency. Share successes, seek support, and reinforce each other's expectations.

8. Use Subtle (Low-Key) Reinforcement

Implement small, indirect reinforcements like verbal acknowledgments, class-wide points, or "soft rewards." These can gradually shift overall classroom culture.

Professional Development Discussion Questions

1. How does deliberate lesson planning impact classroom behaviour?
2. What rapport-building activities have you tried, and what were the outcomes?
3. Share an experience where questioning or proximity re-engaged students—what did it look like?
4. Have you used a silent pause in class? What was the student response?
5. How does your school's sanction policy support (or hinder) purposeful behaviour management?

Suggested Answers

1. Planned lessons minimize downtime and unpredictability, reducing opportunities for misbehaviour. Read my blog post on lesson planning for some expert tips, here:
<https://richardjamesrogers.com/2017/07/02/the-top-5-strategies-for-efficient-lesson-planning/>
2. Taking a professional interest in students' lives builds trust, making them more likely to respect guidance. Read my blog on rapport-building strategies for more guidance, here:
<https://truthforteachers.com/4-secrets-building-rapport-students-even-hard-connect/>
3. Often, a student drifting off can be quickly re-focused with a simple name-based question or your presence near their desk. Strategies like this are covered in my blog post on Behaviour Management Basics, here:
<https://richardjamesrogers.com/2018/10/28/behaviour-management-basics/>
4. Pausing silently often leads to self-policing from students: no shouting needed. Read my blog post entitled The Power of Pausing, here:
<https://richardjamesrogers.com/2018/12/09/the-power-of-pausing/>
5. Good policies are logical, fair, and consistently enforced; poorly designed ones create more disruption than they solve.