

10 steps to managing a cohesive classroom

1. Take pupils back to the original behaviour before dealing with, or getting distracted by, secondary behaviours.
2. Be consistent. Display rules clearly on classrooms walls and then draw children's attention to them when needing to keep them in check.
3. Use emotionless responses to manage inappropriate behaviour that is escalating.
4. Reinforce positive behaviour through phone calls and notes home.
5. Clearly set out rules, routines, learning habits and rituals for those who are becoming difficult to manage.
6. Make sure everyone, including parents, understands the consequences of inappropriate behaviour.
7. Link behaviour to a consequence when speaking to pupils. So, if you do this (stay focused on a task, for example), you will be praised. However, if you do this (eat at your desk), you will receive a sanction.
8. Don't judge yourself too harshly if you don't get it right every day. Aim to be better tomorrow.
9. Don't call for high level sanctions for low level indiscretions, as 'crying wolf' like this may diminish support from colleagues when it's actually needed.
10. Issue and implement sanctions on the same day so a child can start the next day with a clean sheet.