

Managing Behaviour for Learning

Strategy checklist

Diversions

- Make a comment about anything out of context. For example - your opinion of a tv programme, music, how they look (“like your shoes” etc). Remember though, you will need to know the student to select an appropriate comment.
- “Do you remember when you received that positive note home?”
- Put a scenic picture on the interactive whiteboard to refocus attention.
- Use humour to diffuse – cajole, redirect, student attention, praise, reinforcement of positives.
- Produce an object that is related to the subject you are teaching about.
- Change the activity or direction of the lesson (but never forget to deal with the behaviour)
- Grab the student’s attention with, “I need your help”, “Did you see...?”
- Break up the lesson with a quick game to change the focus of the lesson and give you a chance to notice and comment on positives.
- Tactically ignore and change the subject (but don’t forget the behaviour later).
- Divert attention by referring back to a different part of the day/week, “How was lunch?”
“What did you do in PE?”

Diffusers

- End a request with ‘thank you’ – expecting that task will be done because you’ve thanked them for doing it already.
- “The comment/behaviour was heard/seen by everyone but we will deal with this after the lesson”.
- “Why don’t you have a couple of minutes time out over there”.
- “I know where you are coming from.”
- “Ok, I hear you, tell me the main thing that is upsetting you.”
- “You are getting on my nerve and I have only got one!!” - said in a very calm and light manner.
- I can understand you’re feeling angry” – empathise.

- Use a calm voice, draw on a positive experience to help you!
- “You can’t help how you feel but you do have a choice about how you deal with those feelings.”
- “I know this is difficult but...”
- “Can we have a conversation about this sensibly please?” “Can we talk about this?”
- “I hear what you are saying.”
- “I would be cross if that happened to me.”
- “Take a minute to think about how you can improve your behaviour then we can discuss it/continue with your learning.”
- “Woah, woah, woah!” – with a smiley face.
- “This isn’t you, think back to yesterday’s fantastic work.”