

Top Tips for Managing Challenging Behaviour

It's not the severity of follow-up to challenging behaviour that matters, it's the certainty of it.

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1. Create a Shared Understanding of Expectations

Visualise the behaviour that you want in your classroom.
Turn this into a list of specific, observable expectations.
Share this with pupils and ask them to tell you what each expectation means.



2. Build Effective Learning Relationships with Pupils

Be authentically interested in each of your pupils and in their aspirations.
Take time to understand how they learn, how they struggle and how they think.
Share a little of yourself: you are a person who teaches, not just a teacher.



3. Be Prepared

Know your learning objectives, your plan, and how each stage of the lesson goes.
Provide sufficient resources and plan effective transitions between tasks.
Anticipate triggers for challenging behaviour and design them out.
Have specific phrases prepared and rehearsed to address challenging behaviour.



4. Be Reliable

Apply rewards and sanctions consistently and fairly.
Be a guardian of the shared behaviour expectations. Always refer back to them.
Expect pupils to test expectations. They do this to build their trust in you.



5. Know Your Boundaries

Some challenging behaviour may be outside the system.
Know when to seek help.
Be aware of the effect of managing challenging behaviour on your wellbeing.
Identify who you will go to for support or discussions.
Know how, where, and when.



HST Education's Golden Tip!

The start of a lesson is vital. Engage pupils in the first minute by getting them to think, discuss, or do.