

Positive class climate

Strategies to promote positive classrooms

A well-organised classroom provides order, structure and physical boundaries and helps set a positive class climate.

The classroom environment includes physical features as well as the 'climate'. Both impact on student behaviour and learning.

The physical organisation of classrooms should be attractive and functional. The age and stage of students, the types of class activities to be undertaken, and the teacher's personal teaching style will all be reflected in the classroom environment.

The climate is the mood, attitudes and tone felt by teachers, students and visitors to the classroom. A negative classroom climate can feel hostile, chaotic and out-of-control. A positive classroom climate feels safe, respectful, inclusive and supportive.

Consider factors such as seating arrangements, resource storage, transitions, placement of technology, display areas, lighting, temperature and excess furniture.

How to organise the classroom to promote a positive climate

- Collaborate with students to establish simple, clear rules in positive language
- Build and model respectful relationships with students
- Provide clear expectations about work tasks (display timetables, schedules)
- Follow predictable routines to reduce spontaneous and disruptive behaviour
- Provide adequate resources for activities to avoid disputes
- Ensure tasks are set at an appropriate level for students
- Maintain positive expectations of behaviour
- Provide frequent opportunities for success
- Give positive feedback freely and often
- Teach social skills incidentally by modelling and also in formal lessons
- Teach relaxation techniques such as meditation
- Use tactical ignoring, where appropriate
- Remind and restate rules in a firm but positive tone
- Provide simple choices
- Offer alternative behaviours and activities
- Re-establish relationships as soon as possible after an incident (be restorative).

Focus on the behaviour, not on the individual.

