Manage your class: Part 2

Drawing by a child in Uganda, explaining one of the things that they don’t like about the way the teacher manages their class.
Handouts

Handout 1: Preventing misbehaviour/redirecting behaviour

1. You just released students to work by themselves on an activity. A student in the back of the room is looking around and talking to other students. When you ask him what he is doing he does not know what to say.
   • Think of why the student may be behaving in this way.
   • What can the teacher can do about it to prevent it getting worse?

2. Students have just arrived to start the day. They are excited and full of energy and they are all talking to each other. The volume in the classroom is increasing. You want to start the class and get students’ attention.
   • What can a teacher do to focus the students’ attention and get ready to start the lesson?

3. You planned an activity, and you think it will work really well. You explain the activity, but as the activity starts you notice that it is not going the way you planned it. Students are not properly doing the work and not understanding the material.
   • Think of why the students may be behaving in this way.
   • What can the teacher do about it to prevent it getting worse?

4. You have been lecturing for the last 20 minutes. While you are writing on the board, students are whispering and throwing objects at each other.
   • What can a teacher do to prevent this from happening?
Handout 2: Positive discipline

Stop and think
When a student’s actions interrupt you, ask yourself the following questions before you take action:

Decision tree: Action steps

Is the student really doing something wrong?

NO: Redirect your stress away from the students and the class.

YES: Move to next question. Are your expectations fair?

NO: Reconsider your expectations.

YES: Move to next step. Did your student know they were misbehaving?

NO: Behaviour was an accident. Re-explain expectations. Redirect behaviour.

Redirecting unwanted behaviour

- Re-explain expectations.
- **Positive narration:** The teacher calls out positive behaviour to remind all students what they should be doing.
- **Proximity:** The teacher should always be moving around the room while teaching. This limits unwanted behaviour. When a teacher moves closer to a student who is not on task, the student will usually stop the unwanted behaviour and pay attention again.
- **Sudden silence:** The teacher stops talking and waits for the unwanted behaviour to stop before continuing with the lesson.
- **Tone or volume of voice:** A teacher can change the tone or volume of their voice to regain the attention of the class. While the teacher’s voice may very occasionally be loud, the teacher should never lose control. The teacher should never yell at students.
- **Physical cues:** The teacher can use various non-verbal cues to regain the students’ attention (e.g. hand signals, finger snapping, and turning the lights on and off). Teachers will need to establish these cues as part of their routines (see ‘Manage your class’ part 1).
- If the student continues to misbehave after you have attempted to re-direct the unwanted behaviour, move to the next step.

Issuing a consequence

- Do this in private when possible.
- Ask the student to reflect on why their behaviour is unacceptable.
- Issue a consequence. Make sure the consequence is appropriate for the misbehaviour. For example, students should only be sent to the head teacher for persistent and/or violent behaviour in class.
- If the student argues, listen to them respectfully and be open to the fact that you may have missed something in the classroom.
Handout 3: Role play and character cards. Redirecting behaviour and consequences

Alter the types of misbehaviour to reflect common issues in your context

Role-play 1 – Characters

Teacher – Start teaching your students a normal lesson about any subject you choose. You may use a textbook as a prop to help you. The students will start to misbehave. Decide how to react and deal with their behaviour.
Student 1 – You are going to misbehave during the lesson. You will constantly talk to the person next to you.
Student 2 – You are going to misbehave during the lesson. You will not pay attention and you will play with your hair.
Student 3 – You are going to misbehave during the lesson. You refuse to work, even when the teacher asks you to. After a few minutes, you leave the room without permission in a very disruptive way.
Other students – You are going to be a well-behaved student. Follow the teacher’s instructions and do your work.

Role-play 2 – Characters

Teacher – Your class is taking an exam. You set up the exam and then monitor the students as they work. The students will start to misbehave. Decide how to react and deal with their behaviour.
Student 1 – You are going to misbehave during the lesson. You will openly cheat from another student’s work.
Student 2 – You are going to misbehave during the lesson. You will pass notes to students around you and giggle.
Other students – You are going to be a well-behaved student. Follow the teacher’s instructions and do your work.