

Supply Teachers have, in the past, often been seen as easy targets because the general impression is that because they won't be around for long, so poor behaviour in class will carry no real consequence. But with supply teaching becoming more and more commonplace, effective Behaviour Management is key to Supply Teachers' success.

Whilst walking into a brand new class can be daunting, these practical tips are designed to help ensure you succeed from minute one.

What works...

- Get to know pupils names and use them; familiarity engenders respect and compliance!
- Set clear expectations of behaviour during the lesson from the outset, stating consequences for inappropriate behaviour
- Make sure that you follow through with the stated consequences of inappropriate behaviour – don't allow primary problems to develop further into secondary and ongoing problems
- Find out the names of the senior management team and refer to them
- Try to separate 'behaviour' from the person (i.e. talk about the behaviour as an object)
- As part of your preparation for any teaching assignment, have a behaviour strategy in mind as well as a learning strategy
- If it's offered, accept support from other teachers or staff members. See this as a sign of strength, not weakness
- Use positive reinforcement wherever possible – always focus on good behaviour rather than bad
- Countdown to silence (you may find hand clapping for attention useful for Primary age pupils)
- Be patient in the face of inappropriate behaviour; don't react impulsively – give yourself a moment to think and then act

...and what doesn't.....

- Losing your temper; if you do, you will appear to be out of control
- Shouting
- Poor planning and preparation
- Being negative
- Being inconsistent about discipline
- Class detentions