



What Makes A Good Teacher?

Our students told us:

Teaching Methods:

A good teacher:

- Is not patronising.
- Is prepared to explain things again, or in a different way.
- Is able to offer help when it is needed.
- Does not ask students to copy off board all of the time.
- Uses humour – has a joke.
- Is relaxed in lesson but keeps a balance between “pushover” when they won’t respect you and “too strict” where they might rebel.
- Doesn’t take nonsense from students
- Is constant in expectation so there is no confusion.
- Makes sure that everyone is involved and paying attention
- Uses varied teaching methods so as to suit different students.
- Has original ideas.
- Is organised and has all the things they need for a lesson.
- Makes the lesson interesting – uses different techniques.
- Keeps on the topic - is relevant and “anti-rambling”.
- Involves the students.
- Talks to you not at you.
- Listens to our questions.
- Is someone who really cares for the success in students/helps with individual problems.
- Treats everyone equally and with respect.
- Doesn’t shout all of the time/tries to sort things out without shouting.
- Sets homework and makes sure it is collected in and marked - otherwise the people who do it won’t get recognition and if it is not marked students won’t try in the future.
- Mixes activity – practical and writing.
- Uses books instead of paper.

- Reward good behaviour.
- Is consistent when giving rewards.
- Uses warm up activities.
- Keeps lessons moving.

Subject Knowledge:

A good teacher:

- Knows what they are talking about. Have a degree/ good background in their subject.
- Is passionate – likes what they are doing. Believes in their subject.
- Demonstrates their knowledge by using and giving examples. They don’t refer to textbooks for examples.
- Gives succinct answers to questions – doesn’t waffle!
- Shows enthusiasm.
- Uses anecdotes from when they were studying the subject.
- Is able to deliver knowledge at the right level “if we get stuck they know how to help/explain it again differently”
- Shows flexibility. “They have the lesson planned out but can also rearrange it if they have to”
- Has all of their equipment ready for the lesson.

One student remarked:

“If you feel that you don’t think the teacher knows what they are talking about you don’t concentrate”

Behaviour Management:

A good teacher:

- Makes the lesson interesting so people don’t misbehave. “Has a range of things to do so people don’t get bored and disrupt the lesson”
- Rewards good behaviour.
- Has high expectation.
- Body language and attitude makes people realise what they can get away with or not. “As soon as the teacher walks in (the pupils) can tell from their body language”

- Is strict but fair. If firm – “won’t stand for any bad behaviour”
- Treats all students the same. “No bias”
- Has respect for the student.
- Is consistent with punishments. Follows through punishments.
- Looks at every situation to make sure they know who’s to blame.
- Treats each new lesson with a fresh start – “doesn’t hold grudges to people who have misbehaved before” “Naughty pupils listen better to teachers that are nicer than the teachers who shout at them”
- Uses humour when dealing with discipline.
- Makes punishments relevant.
- Shows assertion.
- Targets individuals rather than the whole class – class punishments breed resentment. “You wouldn’t punish the whole class if someone forgets a pen – the same should apply for misbehaviour”
- Doesn’t shout. “If they shout at you, you automatically want to shout back at them”. “It is OK to get angry so long as it is not threatening”

Top Characteristics:

Students have provided their top characteristics.

The teacher has to be:

- In control of the class but fair. Everyone has equal punishments and rights. If not then it affects everyone’s learning.
- Makes sure a pupil is working to their full potential – notices when they are struggling and offers help.
- Has good subject knowledge. Is passionate about their subject. Shows a wide range of knowledge about the curriculum they’re teaching and understanding of what they are teaching. Teaches in a way that is going to be responded to (practicals, explanations, demos etc.).
- Is able to make the lesson interesting and enjoyable. Uses humour to add light heartedness and calmness into the lesson.
- Is well prepared and organised.
- Is able to connect with students on a personal level. Is friendly and approachable.
- Control, receive respect from class within the first 30 sec and keep throughout lesson. Lets’ the pupils know where they stand with the teacher.

“We need to want to learn, not be forced to”