



Definition/Rationale:

Mutual respect should be at the core of every interaction we have. The Stanford Encyclopaedia (2014) States: *'the person who respects something pays attention to it and perceives it differently from someone who does not'*. As educators, we know that the first step of creating a new memory is to pay attention to the material to be remembered. Mutual respect in the classroom encompasses more than the interaction between students and the teacher. An atmosphere of mutual respect means that students also treat each other properly. The result is a classroom where more learning takes place as students feel safe, motivated and, of course, respected. Achieving this atmosphere takes considerable effort on the part of the teacher as well as the students. Once established, however, students will usually work to maintain the positive classroom environment.

Respect should not be confused with being someone's 'mate' and nor should respecting your students result in the blurring of boundaries when it comes to classroom management. It is more about ensuring that the feedback we give, our high expectations and the standards we insist upon come from a place of wanting the best for others not our own fear or insecurities. It is about respecting each other enough to have the difficult conversation because you value them and want them to improve.

The reality is students respect teachers who they feel respect them. The more students respect you and believe that you have their best interest at heart, the easier it is to facilitate positive learning environment.

Underpinning Pedagogy:

Tips for asserting yourself with a class – click [here](#), ['Students Respect Teachers Who They Feel Respect Them'](#), [Dignity and respect in the classroom](#), [The Construct of 'Respect' in Teacher-Student Relationships](#).

Respect is:

- Commanding control of your classroom so that students feel safe, valued and able to learn
- Wanting the best for everyone we interact with
- Taking an interest in others and taking the time to build relationships
- Teaching students to act respectfully towards each other

Respect is not:

- Allowing everyone to have an equal say – ultimately it is your classroom and you are the professional
- About blurring boundaries to the point where is difficult to control the class
- Lowering your expectations or avoiding conversation out of 'respect' for their feelings

What evidence of 'Respect' might we see in a lesson or in student books?

- Positive interaction
- High quality work
- Use of considerate language

How do we monitor this?

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students' outcomes over time• Learning Dives• Work Sampling• Student interviews | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listen to student responses to questioning• Reviews of the scheme of work• Internal tracking data |
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Suggested classroom activities:

- Find out about your students – know their names
- Provide a structured approach to class debate
- Set clear class rules and insist upon them