



STUDENT



# Strategies to Support a Positive School Climate

## Positive Learning Climate

Positive classroom climate is associated with positive student behaviour in the classroom. It is concerned with the extent to which students internalise the norms and values of the classroom (DiPrete et al., 1981), which is affected by the formal and informal rules of the classroom, the effectiveness of classroom management strategies, and the relationships between students and teachers (Ma & Willms, 2004).



### Why is it important?

- Classroom disruptions impact academic achievement (Ma & Willms, 2004).
- Students are more likely to be intellectually engaged when classroom and school learning climates reflect effective use of learning time, positive teacher-student relations, and positive disciplinary climates (Dunleavy et al., 2012).
- Students who describe their classroom disciplinary climate as positive are more likely to report high levels of interest, motivation, and enjoyment in learning (Willms et al., 2009).

## In Practice

Positive learning environments are created when school leaders prioritise a school culture that is responsive to the needs of students both inside and outside of the classroom.



### What can schools do?

When addressing the broader school environment, school leaders should focus on the following key factors:

- Supportive relationships with peers and school staff to ensure that every student feels valued, accepted by their peers, and cared for by their teachers and other adults in the school.
- Safety policies and procedures that support both students and staff to feel secure within the learning environment.
- Effective teaching practices to ensure that educators are following a model of instruction that helps students reach their full potential.
- An institutional setting that meets student needs, including the physical structure of the school, access to resources and classroom layout.

Teachers should also be encouraged to operationalise each of these areas within the classroom environment (Schweig, et al., 2019).



### In the Classroom

Educators can support a positive learning climate in the classroom by adopting procedures that creates a culture of learning and reinforces positive behaviours by:

- Facilitating strong teacher-student bonds to ensure students feel supported and providing encouragement and guidance as needed.
- Establishing a positive disciplinary climate by clearly outlining expectations and responsibilities for students.
- Maintaining a culture of high academic expectations by facilitating individual growth and encouraging all students to perform to the best of their abilities.
- Making efficient use of classroom time to ensure students can meet the intended learning goals of a given lesson.

When teachers embed effective strategies that support students in each of these areas, we can expect to see increases in intellectual engagement (Dunleavy, et al., 2012).

## References

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