

Information for teachers

General facts about working with students

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- Adults should work with the student and not at him or her. The student should be an active participant and should be involved in setting, working towards and achieving his or her own educational and personal goals.
- Events that occur naturally at school or in the classroom environment can be a powerful tool in education.
- Make a point never to miss out on the teachable moment, that special opportunity that may occur during a lesson with an unexpected question, in the playground, during an excursion or when saying good afternoon as the student leaves for home at the end of the school day.
- If you are having difficulty working with a student in your class or you cannot understand what he or she is writing in submitted written work, ask for advice from a colleague, the learning support member of staff, the school counsellor, a senior member of the school's staff, the student's parents or, best of all, the student him or herself.
- Many students with learning difficulties/disabilities prove to be very creative and will suggest many novel ways of solving a problem.
- The use of set class routines, such as the handing in of homework or excursion permission notes, what material should be on a student's desk or table, will lead to predictability and hence to student compliance.
- Most students, especially those in the lower years of schooling, like to know what is happening, what is expected of them, how to do it, and why something is taking place.
- Most students like and appreciate a pattern to their day. If changes occur they like these changes to be explained to them and not just sprung on them without warning.
- Many students experiencing difficulty learning are poor organisers and they need a framework on which to hang their schedule.
- The use of a visual timetable that can be drawn or attached to the board gives predictability to a student's day and allows him or her to see what lesson will be next.
- Accept initiatives presented by your student. Always encourage each student to think of possible solutions to difficulties that he or she may encounter.
- Brainstorming is a powerful weapon if used appropriately and with some adult guidance.
- The use of mind maps and drawing connections from one task to another task also helps students visualise options and choices that may be available to them.
- Offer realistic choices to your students, and ones that can be implemented easily, with minimum disruption to the class. This may mean listening to a tape that a student hands in instead of the written geography report.
- As your students progress through the various stages of their schooling, different responses will be expected of them. They will face different challenges when they move to a high school setting, where their workload will probably increase.
- They will have to move from one classroom to another, adjust to the different teaching styles of various subject teachers, and at the same time they need to remember to take the appropriate books and equipment with them.
- The promotion of mutual, not imposed, enjoyment should be encouraged in the classroom. Children need to enjoy learning. Learning should be fun. A love of lifelong learning is one of the greatest gifts we can give the students in our care.

For more Information

If you require further information please contact:

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