

Are Britain's teachers strict enough on misbehaving pupils?



Pupils misbehaving

According to OFSTED (Office for Standards in Education) the majority of schools have either 'Good' or 'Outstanding' levels in the section of behaviour. As of December 2011, 92.3% of all schools in England were judged 'Good' or 'Outstanding' too. However, more than 18,000 long suspensions were given out in public schools during 2012 - almost 40% of them for physical violence - the latest data shows. There have been reports of serious incidents in schools where teachers and principles were abused by violent students, parents or intruders with a grudge. Some students spiral so out of control that they throw pieces of furniture or violate school property. Often, teachers have had to seek an AVO (Apprehended Violence Order) for protection in severe cases. The Government is working hard to prevent these situations in schools.

What is happening in Schools?

Teachers in Britain are having a tough time in schools. Many young teachers are facing trouble from mischievous pupils who bully or intimidate others. The Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove, wants to return to the traditional discipline from as little as helping tidy the classroom to writing out lines. He wants to urge teachers to be tough on naughty pupils and has outlined new guidelines for giving out "tough but proportionate punishments." The aim of these punishments is to create an effective education to all in Britain.

What is being done to change this?

The Government has introduced a new system which all teachers must follow to ensure that any difficult situations do not spiral out of control. It is called the Teacher's Code of Conduct. This lengthy list includes all the dos and don'ts for a teacher in the classroom. It supports the privacy of all students whilst diffusing any tough circumstances. It contains what students should and should not do. As always, physical control is not permitted in schools at all.

For many teachers, it is difficult to control mischievous pupils, but for most it is a case of using the right tactics and having a firm control over the students in a classroom. We asked Ms McCartney, a high school teacher, what she thought about troublesome students and how to deal with them correctly.

School Report: "Have you ever come across troublesome students and what have you done to overcome stop this?"

Ms. McCartney: "Yes I have, with low level disruption, it's the matter of meeting their expectations and following through and making sure they know the consequences."

SR: "How do you punish those who misbehave?"

MM: "Well, I follow the school system as you know, for example giving out detentions and demerits but I rarely have to give them out and I usually reward those who do well."



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