

Positive Feedback from Peer Assessment of Lesson

The level of teacher confidence and competence in 'letting students go' and allowing them to develop their own structures for learning is an unconscious skill that teachers have as part of their inherent skill base but is not acknowledged as an obvious professional skill.

The development and existence of trust between students and teachers is essential to allow personalised learning to take place.

We recognised on reflection that a positive framework needs to be created by the teacher before any such learning process can take place and that this is built up over a period of time spent with the students in all aspects of school life. Our positive relationship with the students is an essential ingredient for successful learning.

The nature of the institution allows for the development of these positive relationships and also the building up of trust and we feed this into our lessons not as a conscious process but as an inherent part of the job.

Peer observations allow us to take stock and reflect on the positives that are already there. Especially in an institution where there is little time for positive formal feedback.

The peer observation process has played a significant part in professional reflection for two teachers who are at very different stages of teaching experience. It allowed one teacher to consolidate and confirm a belief in student focused learning and its benefits. The other teacher it allowed for development of improvement of teaching and learning skills through class control mechanism and structures.

The process allowed for some time out to refocus on the essential elements of planning. At key times all teachers, irrespective of their level of experience, need to have their 'own time out' to really get to grips of how they approach the process of learning in their classrooms.

For example

Pupils could be given a structured worksheet to log the areas for prep work so that I have details of the pupils' participation in the project. I was aware that some members of the groups were much weaker/lazier than others and without getting them to complete specific tasks the rest of the group would carry them