



Making the Most of Your Role as a Supply Teacher

► Teaching Tips



As a supply teacher, it can be challenging to enter a new school and classroom.

You may not know the staff, students or the classroom layout, and you may not have access to the same resources you are used to.

It's normal to feel nervous.

We're back with some more tips to help you make the most of your role as a Supply Teacher!

Know the School's Behavioural Policy

One of the most important things to do when you arrive at a new school is to familiarise yourself with the school's behaviour management policy.

This will give you a clear understanding of what is expected of you and the students, and will help you know what steps to take if a student is displaying behaviour that is not in line with the expectations.

By following the school's system, you will avoid confusion and maintain consistency in the classroom.



Establish Expectations Early



Setting clear expectations early in the day is critical to a successful day as a supply teacher.

You should take time to introduce yourself to the class and set your behaviour/classroom expectations.

Be clear about what will happen if they display unacceptable behaviour and what rewards are in place if they behave well.

You can use a rewards system to incentivise good behaviour, and this can be as simple as verbal praise.

Build Rapport

Building rapport with your students is crucial to your success as a supply teacher.

To do this, you need to be approachable and friendly - use positive body language and make eye contact when you talk to the students.

Take the time to get to know them, ask them questions, and listen to their answers, find out what they are interested in, and use this information to engage them in the lesson.



Work with Support Staff

When you start at a new school, get familiar with the support staff - this includes teaching assistants (TAs) and learning support assistants (LSAs).

They can offer valuable information about the students, including their needs, strengths, and weaknesses.

They can also help you with the daily routine and give you advice on how to approach different situations.

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