

Manage Distractions - Take it steady!

Think about how and when you might:

Stop/avoid:

- Telling off students who are distracted – rather focus on their learning
- Thinking managing distractions means getting students to work in silence all the time
- Taking the responsibility for managing their distractions yourself

Experiment with:

- Putting students in charge of managing their distractions
- Getting students to nominate those who have improved in staying focussed at the end of the lesson so they begin to recognise what the habit looks like

Start/do more of:

- Rewarding students who manage distractions e.g. proximity praise for those next to students who are distracting them
- Referring to the learning habit regularly so that students internalise the idea
- Discussing with students that only they can manage their own distractions

Start slowly:

- Commenting on the learning and not on the distraction
- Design schemes of work where students have to manage distractions as one of the aims
- Talking to students about their work rather than their behaviour when they are off-task e.g. “What were you two thinking of doing next? Where are you up to in this piece of work?”