

## Classroom Culture - Poles Apart

### The teacher-focused classroom

Classrooms are designed for efficient teaching. Responsibility for learning lies with the teacher

Students are passive recipients of instruction. Teachers' questions check for understanding.

Teachers pride themselves on their secure subject knowledge

Talk is focused on work and the successful acquisition of content

Talk about learning is little more than exhortations to 'try harder' or 'ask more questions'.

Informal comments tend to be little more than poorly defined encouragement and praise

Learning objectives focus on what is to be learned

Tasks are generally undifferentiated, challenging for some, easy for others.

Opportunities for reflection are few and far between

Teachers help students to avoid making mistakes

Display contains some learning positive prompts

Display celebrates examples of 'good / best work'.

### The learning-friendly classroom

Students take responsibility for their own learning development

Teachers coach students, and students coach each other

Teachers seek feedback from their students about how they might improve their teaching

Classroom talk enables students to understand and improve their own learning

Sophisticated talk about learning permeates everyday classroom discourse

Talk is planned to nudge fine-grain aspects of learning behaviours forward

Learning objectives help students to understand what they will learn, why they will learn it, and how they will learn it

Students relish opportunities to tackle the challenging, open-ended activities provided

Students have ample opportunities to reflect on what they have learned and how they have learned it

Students understand that making mistakes and learning from them is a sign that they are learning

Students are aware of and can describe how they are becoming better learners

Display celebrates students' growth as learners