

Team-teaching...

... a potential new direction

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School in which team-teaching occurred: Stratford College, Rathgar, Dublin.

What I learned

I co-taught a 3rd-year English class once a week in Stratford College, Rathgar from January until May 2016.

It is useful if it is established that one teacher takes care of the petty tasks such as collecting homework copies, taking the register, setting up presentations etc. while the other teacher informs the class of the learning objectives and begins the actual teaching.

Adequate time needs to be set aside so that teachers can jointly plan for lessons.

Benefits of team-teaching

Team-teaching allowed time to be saved in class. For example, when I or my cooperating teacher struggled to think of a good answer to a student's query, one of us was often able to quickly chip in and answer it. This meant that less time was spent floundering trying to address trickier questions that were put to us by students. Moreover, we could reinforce each other's points by agreement and by expanding on each other's assertions.

Team-teaching was also useful for maintaining good behaviour. It was easy to keep students 'on task', especially if one teacher stood at the board and the other moved around the room.

Time-saving

Encourages good behaviour

Team-teaching needs to be jointly planned