

Team-teaching

A viable option or a temporary distraction?

Teresa Doyle

Benefits

- Allows flexibility in instruction and variety in methodologies.
- Permits greater sharing of resources including essential skills and knowledge between teachers.
- Reduced student-teacher ratio improves learning support and behavioral management.
- Professional growth and personal support.
- Increased spirit of collaboration, inclusiveness, and teamwork.

Challenges

- Lack of resources and training.
- Layout of timetable and lack of time – tight constraints in terms of curriculum, scheduling, and preparation.
- Fear of professional collaboration – including fear of being judged and critiqued on performance.
- In order to work effectively, teachers must share common beliefs in classroom methods and behavioral management.

Personal Experience

- I found team teaching quite a difficult experience. Perhaps it is more suited to teachers who are on a par with each other. As it is, the power dynamics were too imbalanced and inevitable became a situation where I would be a “helper” to the “main” teacher (which is what team-teaching should ideally avoid).
- Nevertheless I would be willing to try again once I’m fully qualified and have more teaching experience of my own.

