

Top 10 non-negotiables of successful lessons

Plan to use the following strategies in your classroom daily.

(Adapted from Cochrane Collegiate.)

Every successful lesson will have:

1. a clear learning intention

What is the intended goal of the lesson? What do you expect your students to know, understand or do (skill) by the end of the lesson?

2. a hook to engage students' curiosity and interest

What is something that ignites the interest of each student and makes a connection to their world or prior knowledge?

3. collaborative activities (at least one)

Collaborative activities allow students to discuss, create, synthesise and test ideas with their peers.

4. movement during the lesson

Students need to be physically moving to be actively engaged—particularly boys.

5. relevant vocabulary and terminology identified and scaffolded

Ensure all new vocabulary and terminology is explicitly covered and students are able to use these words interactively during the lesson.

6. appropriate use of Te Reo and Tikanga

Māori students need to hear and see their culture and language as a natural part of the classroom every day.

7. a student-centred focus

How do your students learn best? Technology is a critical 21st century tool and engages students in relevant, real world learning. Learning is a partnership—if you plan effectively and successfully, your students are more likely to learn effectively and successfully.

8. higher order thinking

Every lesson should challenge students cognitively. Use higher-order thinking to help create the right challenge level.

9. a summary of the learning

Use an exit question to summarise the learning and determine if the learning goal has been achieved. Students' responses will tell you if the learning needs to be extended or refined.

10. academic feedback and feed-forward

Students need to give and receive timely and specific feedback and feed-forward to improve their learning experience.