

Integrating Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Framework in K-12 English Lessons to Promote 21st Century Learner's Profile

Webinar handout

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Ideas bank to cultivate SEL culture in all levels of English lessons

There are some of my best practices that you can adopt to integrate SEL and promote 21st-century skills at the same time. (read more about 21st century skills here: https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/professional-development/teachers/21st-century-skills)

1. Setting core values for students

On your first day of the school term, you can collaborate with your students to think about what core values are good for creating a positive learning atmosphere. You can come up with a list of adjectives that show good behaviours like confident, fearless, unique, united, and unstoppable. Make sure to connect with 4 areas of SEL as follows;

- Self-awareness
 - You can associate this with an adjective like confidence.
- Self-management
 - You can associate this with a communication-style adjective.
- Social awareness
 - You can associate this with a team-building adjective.
- Relationship management

You can associate this with an empathy awareness adjective.

2. Awarding session based on core values

Celebration is a must. It shows that teachers really pay attention to students' social and emotional needs. Provide a small presentation attached with award certification and celebrate with food and drinks in the class. This is a good time to connect with your students and listen to their stories, opinions, and aspirations.

3. Reward and consequences system in the classroom

SEL classroom appreciates a positive learning atmosphere. This is step-by-step how you do it:

- Agree on what rules must be addressed in the classroom
 - On the first day of a semester, ask the students what a positive classroom looks like.
- Set up consequences
 - We agree not to punish the students, but we build up a sense of responsibility.
- Be consistent and assign 'police'
 - I tally every misbehaving rule and keep a record with the help of student police.
- Reward established behaviours more often than punish
 - Besides counting up when students misbehave, it is better to pay attention to established positive behaviours. I hand out vouchers with points and if they reach a certain level of points, they can exchange them with special merchandise.

4. Show time and big performances

It is time for contextualized learning. An event like this will shape students' collaboration, communication, decision-making, critical thinking, digital literacy, leadership, and personal development skills. The best way to do this is to choose a big holiday celebration in your country or a global event celebration like World's Teacher Day and facilitate your students to share their ideas in the form of show and tell.

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A recording of Fatiha's webinar for World Teachers' Day 2023 can be watched here: https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/news-events/world-teachers-day-2023/world-teachers-day-2023/world-teachers-day-2023-friday-6-october