

Advice Sheet 19

GOLDEN TIME: A REWARD SYSTEM

Golden Time is a reward system which has been devised and developed by Jenny Mosley. The basic principle is that if pupils can control their own behaviour and learning in a positive way, they will be consistently rewarded for their efforts. It is best suited to primary schools and/or special schools where the discretionary time in the timetable can be used for Golden Time. Golden Time generally runs for 30 minutes. It's probably best to run Golden Time as a whole-school reward system which happens at the same time each week. At the start of the week each pupil can choose which activity they wish to select for their Golden Time. Each teacher can offer a choice of activities to their own class, or alternatively, pupils can move to other classes to engage in the activity being offered in that classroom. Activities could include computers, board games, reading, PE, music, dance, art, drama, cookery, video, construction toys etc., and it is a good idea to involve the pupils in the selection of ideas for activities. Pupils who have a tendency towards disruptive behaviour may be less inclined to continue if they risk losing a privilege which they themselves have chosen.

Before implementing Golden Time, each class is introduced to the Golden Rules. These are displayed around the school on gold card / paper and examples of how the rule has been observed can also be displayed using photographs of the pupils following the Golden Rules. They should also be visible from the playground.

If a pupil breaks a Golden Rule during the week a warning card is placed on his/her desk with a whispered reminder or question about which rule was broken. This card stays until the end of the session (perhaps take it back more quickly if a pupil has difficulty with behaviour or has special educational needs). If the same pupil breaks another rule while the card is on their desk, then they lose 5 minutes from their chosen activity. Continued rule-breaking adds another 5 minutes to the time lost. A pupil can lose up to 30 minutes Golden Time but do make sure that they earn back 15 minutes of this. Each pupil should experience 15 minutes of Golden Time at least. The pupil does not take part in Golden Time but sits watching a sand-timer/clock until the time is up. The teacher/ other pupils should not interact during this time. Discussion takes place later.

The **Six Golden Rules** are:

1. **We are gentle – we do not hurt anybody.**
2. **We are kind and helpful – we do not hurt people's feelings.**
3. **We listen – we do not interrupt.**
4. **We work hard – we do not waste our own or other people's time.**
5. **We look after property – we do not waste or damage it.**
6. **We are honest – we do not cover up the truth.**

For more:

<http://www.circle-time.co.uk/site/home/>

http://www.edisford.lancsngfl.ac.uk/index.php?category_id=52

<http://www.culter.aberdeen.sch.uk/Golden%20Rules.htm>