

Activity 3: How you could gather evidence in your school

If you were concerned about teaching in your school, think now about how you might gather evidence to understand more about the issue and what might be causing it. Make notes in your Learning Diary about the evidence you could gather and the issues you might have in gathering it.

Discussion

Clearly, we do not know what evidence you have decided upon. But the issues are likely to be similar:

- Teachers may be suspicious about your motives and unhappy about you entering their classroom.
- Students may act differently because of your presence.
- Parents may have concerns if students report your activity.

As you gather evidence in your school on a more regular basis, it will cause less excitement and concern – but initially, you will have to be reassuring. Gathering evidence from more than one teacher or class reduces the focus of attention for others to some extent. You can also think about involving the teachers by asking them what they would like feedback on as a way of making the process more collaborative.

It is particularly useful to share your concerns with other school leaders to see if they have any useful solutions to the potential problems or different forms of evidence.