

## Plan of Research

For my investigation there are several methods I will need to use to fully investigate all of my stated aims.

### Observations

I will conduct several non-participant observations of different classes in Hornsea School. I chose this method because it will allow me to view the pupil's behaviour for myself rather than taking other peoples word for it. I can also observe how a teachers sanctions affect the class and if there are any differences in the teacher's uses of sanctions in different ability groups, therefore fulfilling my aims of finding out if teachers use negative sanctions more frequently in a lower set than a higher set and also finding out if there are any differences with positive and negative sanctions in higher and lower sets. However it may not give me the reasons why.

I can tally both the good and bad sanctions used and can compare the data from different observations quite easily due to the quantitative data, making it very easy to do and to get good information. To decide on whom to observe I will get a stratified opportunity sample based upon age and ability level. This will be both bottom and top sets from year 7 and year 10. This will allow me to view the right classes. This could be seen as biased as I will be conducting the observations within the school I attend and also the data may not be good to generalise to all schools.

### Questionnaires

Another method I will use is questionnaires. These will be given to 6 students from each year. Meaning overall there will be 30 questionnaires. It will be a stratified opportunity sample. I chose this sample as I think it will be quite easy to get them to answer the questions as I can go to each year during morning registration and also get them back at the same time.

This method allows me to get the students opinions on the behaviour of their class and if they think their set affects that, therefore helping to answer my first aim. I can also ask about the punishments and rewards given by the teacher, which in turn will help in giving information relevant to my other 2 aims.

The questions will be mainly closed giving mainly quantitative data. This will allow for an easier comparison of the information but the open questions will

make it more valid and will help in giving me more in depth, personal information from the students themselves.

### **Interviews**

My final method will be semi-structured interviews of 3 teachers. One science, one maths and a third English, by interviewing teachers from different subjects it will allow me to compare the information to see if it is the same in all subjects. I don't want to do too many interviews as they are quite time consuming and I feel this is enough to find out their general views and opinions.

I can ask each teacher their views of teaching different sets which can easily be linked to my first aim of finding out if people in higher sets behave better than those in a lower set.

I can also ask how they themselves feel they differ with the sanctions they give and if they feel there is any relation of this with the ability level of the group.

I chose semi-structured interviews rather than structured interviews because I felt it leaves room for an expansion of the information and allows me to probe further when necessary, this means I can gather more valid information.

However, I don't feel confident enough to do unstructured interviews and although the information could be more valid, it means it would be much harder to compare and the information could be highly irrelevant as it is easy to go off topic.