

What makes a Good Teacher? The Students' Verdict – Dr Angela Pulis

The search for the qualities of a good teacher captures the attention of a wide variety of stakeholders, scholars and opinionists. The continuous quest to understand what makes a good teacher concerns and interests different stakeholders- those who are directly involved in the educational system: school leaders, educational policy-makers, parents; and also stakeholders who fall outside the inner educational remit, but who nevertheless have an interest in the educational process: employers, members of the general public and political analysts. Local quantitative research (Pulis, 2018) conducted with 1618 students from a total of 42 state schools revealed that the top-quality indicator of a good school, through the eyes of the Maltese student, is 'Good teachers'. Further qualitative research conducted with five Student Councils probed into students' perspectives of the qualities of a good teacher. This presentation summarises the findings emanating from the research conducted with students. In addition, it compares these results with similar research undertaken in different educational systems. Students' voice on what makes a good teacher could provide relevant insights and valuable knowledge to all educational stakeholders, in particular to teachers, to help ensure an engaging and quality educational experience for students.