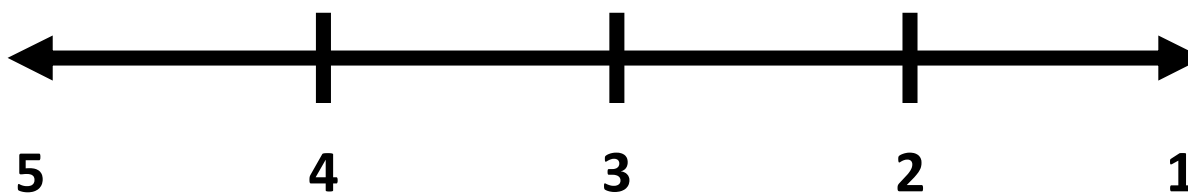


Are we Outstanding or are we Failing?

Conversations

In **Outstanding** schools you hear conversations about learning and teaching at every turn. All the meetings, the INSET, the briefings are concerned with learning and teaching. What you hear when people discuss “difficult classes” is an exploration of what they need to change about their teaching in order to engage the students in learning. Staff know what outstanding lessons look like and they prioritise learning and teaching above everything else.



In **Failing** schools all the talk is about students’ poor behaviour. There is no connection between student behaviour and the quality of learning and teaching. Staff meetings and INSET sessions are about policies, which are thick on the ground and well-developed. There are plenty of policies but little practice on the ground that makes a difference to students. The school is obsessed with ticking boxes, managing children’s behaviour and staff talk wistfully of being able to teach well if only the students would behave and let them.