



Leading Eclectic Teams

Monday 2nd June 2025 Richard Hester

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Overview:

Do you know + understand your team? Do you know what influences them?

Purpose + goals

Trust

Motivation

Team dynamics + psychological safety

Team evaluation framework



Teamwork is hard. Office dynamics are hard. Be wary of expecting the perfect team!

There could be a thousand reasons why team are dysfunctional.

"When people believe you understand them, they give you permission to influence them."

Richard Mullender



Two questions (Hubert Joly)

- 1) Tell me your life story
- 2) Who has influenced you the most?

The best way to get a team to work together, in three words?

Reid Hoffman

"We are allies."

Reid Hoffman



What percentage of your team could name your department's/school's top three priorities?



Is how to motivate the right question?

Or should it be: "How do I avoid demotivating people?"

The biggest motivator?

PROGRESS

	(please mark a 'x' on the scale)	
Low dependability		High dependability
Low structure and clarity		High structure and clarity
Low meaning		High meaning
Lowimpact		High impact
Low psychological safety		High psychological safety

7 questions to help gauge the level of psychological safety in your team (Google):

- •Do you struggle to have tough conversations?
- •Do you feel judged and team members disrespect each other?
- •Do you fear asking for or delivering constructive feedback?
- •Are you or others hesitant about expressing divergent ideas or asking "silly" questions?
- •Do you feel you cannot make mistakes or take risks?
- •Are team discussions dominated by a few strong voices that marginalise other people's perspectives?
- •Are your team members competitive with each other?





	(please mark a 'x' on the scale)	
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Low psychological safety		High psychological safety

Notes:



What if things go wrong?

Benefit of the doubt; always start with this.

Challenge inappropriate behaviour.

	(please mark a 'x' on the scale)	
Poor communication		Great communication
Low level of trust		High level of trust
Chaotic busyness		Clear goals
Inefficiency		Efficiency
Little progress*		Much progress made*
One directional instructions given		Differences embraced and diverse perspectives sought
Team demonstrates inflexibility		Team demonstrates flexibility
Team members operate independently		Team members cooperate

TEAM EVALUATION page 2



	(please mark a 'x' on the scale)	
Task centred		Pupil focussed
Lack of appreciation		Team members appreciated
Individualism		Unity and cohesiveness
Lack of listening and no opinions sought		Opinions are listened to and valued
Personal opinions are not articulated at the right time		Decisions are challenged respectfully when there is a disagreement
Lack of commitment to an agreed decision		Commitment once a decision is determined
Lack of skills criticised		Team members coached and supported
Negative atmosphere		Positive atmosphere



Checklist:

Are you curious? Show interest.

Are you sharing the right information? (connecting role and purpose) Are there cliques (are people consciously/ subconsciously excluded)? Are people getting the credit/ recognition they deserve? It's free! Have expectations been communicated? Perceiving hypocrisy is extremely demotivating.

As a leader be a thermostat not a thermometer.

(You should set the temperature not just report it).

RESPECT

Keep in touch

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