

FrontRow Systems

Appropriate Volume Levels

Front Row Systems are designed to comfortably *amplify and distribute* the teacher's natural voice, over distance and background noise, to benefit all students in a classroom. They are sometimes used incorrectly. Here are some frequently asked questions about correct volume.....

Question; How loud should FrontRow be?

Answer: Each classroom and teacher is different. Placement of the microphone, and whether you are using a natural speaking voice, can impact whether the system is being used properly. Remember the main focus is to distribute the sound throughout the classroom at a slightly louder level than the regular background noise in the class. Teachers speaking in a natural voice will provide the greatest benefit to students and themselves.

Q: Other than volume controls, what could make a difference with my system volume?

A: Many different factors could change the volume – type of system, microphone style and/or placement, speaker type or placement, tone control or the teachers own voice level.

Q: Is more volume better?

A: No, in fact being too loud can defeat the purpose of the sound systems.

Q: If the students don't complain that it is too loud, why do the other teachers?

A: By nature, students will not know to say anything, but may show behaviour signals towards the end of the day.

Q: Should I turn it up so I can hear myself?

A: This may be an indication that it is too loud with normal class activity. Ask another adult to listen within your classroom in a variety of locations. That listener should hear you as if you were having a one to one conversation. You should be just on the edge of hearing yourself.

Your system may be too loud if you answer “yes” to one or more of these questions:

- Can you be heard out in the halls or in the next room?
- Has it been mentioned by other teachers that your voice is too loud?
- Does your voice sound distorted or has an echo?

Remember, the goal of using classroom amplification is to improve the clarity of speech at the listener's ear regardless of their location in the classroom.

“Loudcasting” does not support this goal. Ask for help when setting the volume.