

Section 1:

#1 (First paragraph: "Some people believe every classroom should have a Calm Corner... they can cause more problems than they solve.")

Strengths: Your opening clearly states the topic and presents your position straight away. You've also acknowledged the opposing viewpoint, which shows balanced thinking.

Weakness: Abrupt transition → Your introduction moves too quickly from presenting the idea to your stance without enough background information. The phrase "this might sound like a caring idea" feels dismissive without explaining why people actually support Calm Corners or what specific benefits they claim.

Exemplar: *"Some people believe Calm Corners help students manage their emotions and improve their focus, but after careful consideration, creating these spaces in every classroom may not be the most effective approach."*

#2 (Second paragraph: "Firstly, Calm Corners interrupt learning time... This could affect their future as they won't know how to tackle problems.")

Strengths: You've provided a clear main argument with specific examples of how learning time could be affected. Your counterargument shows you can consider different perspectives.

Weakness: Unsupported claims → You make several assumptions without evidence, particularly the statement "they might run away from it" and the prediction about future problem-solving abilities. The phrase "This could affect their future as they won't know how to tackle problems" jumps to a conclusion without explaining the connection clearly.

Exemplar: *"Instead of learning coping strategies during challenging moments, students might develop a habit of avoiding difficult situations, which could make it harder for them to build resilience over time."*

#3 (Fourth paragraph: "Some people might point out... These trained professionals can teach children skills...")

Strengths: You've recognised an important counterargument about student wellbeing and provided alternative solutions that already exist in schools.

Weakness: Incomplete comparison → Whilst you mention that schools have "better systems in place," you don't explain specifically how these alternatives are superior to Calm Corners or why they can't work alongside them. The phrase "better systems" needs more detailed justification.

Exemplar: *"These professionals can provide personalised strategies and ongoing support that a simple corner space cannot offer, making their approach more comprehensive and effective."*

■ Your piece demonstrates solid argumentative structure with clear paragraphs and logical flow. You've done well to include counterarguments, which strengthens your writing. However, your arguments would be more convincing with stronger evidence and deeper analysis. Many of your points rely on assumptions rather than concrete reasoning. Additionally, you could improve by explaining the connections between your ideas more thoroughly. For example, when you mention that Calm Corners might teach avoidance, expand on why this is problematic and how it specifically impacts learning. Also, consider strengthening your alternative solutions by explaining exactly how they work better than Calm Corners. Your conclusion effectively summarises your main points, but it could be enhanced by addressing what schools should do instead more specifically.

Score: 44/50

Section 2:

Some people believe every classroom should have a Calm Corner where students can take two-minute brain breaks whenever they feel stressed. Although this might sound like a caring idea, creating Calm Corners in every classroom is not the best way to help students. In fact, they can cause more problems than they solve. #1

Firstly, Calm Corners interrupt learning time. Lessons are carefully planned to fit into short school days, and students need to be in class to keep up. If students leave for two minutes every time they feel worried or frustrated, they could miss key explanations, instructions, or group discussions. Teachers might then have to repeat themselves, which slows down the class and wastes time for students who stayed and listened. Some may argue that ~~calm corners~~ [Calm Corners] help students return to their work feeling calmer and more focused. This is a fair point because taking a short break can sometimes help the brain reset. However, students might also start using the Calm Corner as an excuse to escape whenever work feels too hard. Instead of learning how to manage stress in the middle of a challenging

task, they might run away from it. This could affect their future as they won't know how to tackle problems. #2

Another concern is space and teacher workload. Many classrooms are already full of desks, bookshelves, and supplies, leaving very little spare room. Setting up a Calm Corner would mean losing space that could be used for group work, reading areas, or displays. Teachers would also have to spend time monitoring who is using the Calm Corner and how long they stay there, which takes their attention away from teaching the rest of the class. Some people might point out that student wellbeing is very important and that ~~calm corners~~ [**Calm Corners**] could help children manage their emotions better. This is true, and I agree that schools should support emotional wellbeing.

However, there are already better systems in place. Many schools have ~~therapy teachers~~ [**specialist teachers**], school ~~counselors~~ [**counsellors**], and wellbeing programmes where students can get proper help and guidance. These trained professionals can teach children skills to manage stress in a safe and structured way, rather than letting them leave class on their own whenever they choose. #3

In conclusion, while Calm Corners might seem helpful, they take time away from lessons, create extra work for teachers, and could teach students to avoid their problems instead of solving them. Since schools already have ~~therapy teachers~~ [**specialist teachers**] and programmes to support mental health, and there are whole-class ways to build resilience, Calm Corners in every classroom are unnecessary. If we want students to be calm, focused, and ready to learn, we should focus on solutions that work for everyone without taking time away from valuable learning.