Is your teaching learner-centred?

It is helpful to think of ‘learner-centredness’ as a set of attitudes and values. Here is a set of questions you could use to decide if your teaching is ‘learner-centred’. (These are based on a set of ‘minimum standards’ for learner-centred education suggested by Michele Schweisfurth, full reference below).

- Are students engaged and motivated to learn?
- Are classroom relationships based on mutual respect?
- Does the learning challenge students and build on existing knowledge?
- Are students given the chance to talk about their ideas to support their learning?
- Is the curriculum relevant to learners’ lives? Do the activities promote a range of skills including critical thinking and creativity?
- Does the assessment test a range of skills and give credit for more than recall of knowledge?

These could apply to teachers working with students, or to teacher educators working with teachers and student teachers.