

## **Student Well-being: A Collective Responsibility**

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### **Gradual Release of Responsibility**

JOHN ALMARODE: So, when we make reference to students seeing themselves as their own teacher, and students taking ownership of learning, what we don't want to do is just hand it over. For example, we cannot hand over the content in a year six classroom to a learner and say, well, they say student ownership matters. Go learn. Go be smart. It's equivalent to taking one of us, standing in our garage, and expecting to come out a Cadillac two weeks later. It doesn't make sense. So, what we're talking about here is a concept developed by Doug Fisher and Nancy Fry, and it's called gradual release. In other words, we provide the support needed as learners enter into new content, and we gradually release them into independence in that learning. So, it's not a throw them in the deep end and hope they swim. It's not a, hand them the textbook and say, go take ownership and learn. It's us being very intentional and deliberate in how we structure learning so that as they progress through their learning, we gradually release them into independent learning, helping them learning the metacognitive strategies as well as the content necessary to be independent learners.