

"How Good is Our Ethos?"

The University of Edinburgh
Pollock Halls

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ORGANISATION

Reintegration Team, Perth & Kinross

FOCUS

Solution Focused Ethos – How Would that be Good for You?

Please give a brief description of your initiatives which illustrate ways in which ethos can be used as a connecting theme across a number of school activities, such as attainment, achievement, equity, inclusion, rights, health and personal safety.

Using a solution focused approach, we connect across the educational, community, social and emotional needs and aspirations of the young people and their families. Although young people negotiate an individualised curriculum, the framework for assessing need and reviewing progress is universal and encompasses solution focused techniques. The curriculum includes out-of-hours provision, music, arts and the media, outdoor education, issue-based work (sexual health, Children's Rights Act, relationships, etc) to compliment more formal educational provision.

How are these initiatives being monitored and evaluated?

Staff and team reviews – individual and collective (using solution focused techniques). Evaluation framework for project overall – using *How Good is Our School?* evaluation framework for specific initiatives (outdoor education; media; music; arts)

What are some of the biggest challenges faced by teachers and young people or members of your organisation, in implementing the initiatives or projects?

Supporting young people at home and in the community.

Enabling young people to participate fully in mainstream education.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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What has worked well?

All project staff trained and committed to the application of Solution Focused approaches techniques which is also offered to young people and parents as 'new thinking tools'

Having our own staff in schools to support young people and work jointly with school staff.

Having the flexibility and creativity to deliver a negotiated curriculum for each young person with a mix of formal and informal learning activities.

What did not work & lessons learned?

Some schools are better equipped and more skilled in supporting the young people we work with. In some cases reintegration to mainstream school did not work. Whilst continuing to work with schools as principle education providers, we plan to extend our 'educational' provision to compliment that which is provided by schools.

Future plans?

To continue to build on success to date. Specifically to creatively extend our curriculum choices with a mix of formal and informal learning activities, incorporating a range of accreditation options (SQA, Youth Achievement Award, Asdan)

Any materials the school or organisation is willing to share or relevant publications that are for sale?

- ✓ Project evaluation available for information
- ✓ Solution focused assessment framework
- ✓ Gimme 5 motivational framework