

What Works?

when tackling bullying in schools
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ORGANISATION Lindsay Graham, Health Promoting Schools, Highlands
FOCUS Anti-Bullying: a school and community approach

Can you briefly describe how your initiative or project helps to tackle bullying?

The Anti-bullying project started as a result of several issues. These were: a school survey, direct work with pupils one to one, vandalism on school transport and time taken up dealing with bullying in the school by the senior management team.

The school began by contacting all those involved with these issues and brought together a steering group to look at a way forward. The steering group comprised of Education, Police, Bus company, Pupils, Youth workers, Community Education, Health and a Voluntary mediation group.

Work undertaken by the group included:

- ✓ Letters home to all parents
- ✓ Poster campaign on bullying and the law
- ✓ Support group for victims
- ✓ Working with the bullies and their behaviour
- ✓ Drama workshop 'A to Z of bullying'
- ✓ New school policy
- ✓ Senior pupils acting as bus monitors
- ✓ Presentation by 'Big Dave'

How is this initiative being monitored and evaluated?

The project has developed its own documentation that is used by the partners. This can give figures and information for monitoring. A willingness to share information by all the agencies has also helped with evaluation of success. Both anecdotal and written evidence is collected.

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

Time was one of the biggest challenges for the project. Bringing the agencies together was difficult but because of the seriousness of the problem a regular timetable was scheduled. Getting the young people to talk about bullying was also a problem to start with. However once pupils were aware of their rights through the poster campaign this soon changed.

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What has worked well?

The project has worked extremely well. Confidence in the young people who were previously victims, recognition of the project's benefit by parents, reduced vandalism on school transport (saving thousands of pounds), peer support from senior pupils acting as bus monitors, new school policy developed in consultation with agencies, roll out of the pilot to schools across Highland are just a few of the success stories from this project.

What did not work and what lessons were learned?

Working with the bullies at first proved difficult due to lack of personnel in one agency. This has since been overcome by recruitment.

Lessons learned:

Working together and sharing resources brings success

Listen to and believe in young people.

Success only comes from sharing.

Future plans?

The project is being rolled out to schools across Highland and we are currently looking at how to develop an information/training pack from the materials used.

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

We are willing to share anything with anyone, see above.



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