

'Bullying – We're all in it together'

Anti-Bullying Network Conference November 2004

CONFERENCE THEME:

'To be effective, anti-bullying policies must take into account the fact that schools are communities composed of both adults and children'



November 2004

ORGANISATION

Integrated Community Schools, Dundee

FOCUS

Partnership for Prevention

Can you briefly describe any initiatives or projects in place that illustrate the focus of our conference?

The partnership for prevention programme brought together Community Liaison Officers from Tayside Police, Barnardo's Supporting Primary Age Children Early (SPACE) project and NHS Tayside Primary Mental Health Team to work with pupils, parents and staff at Brackens Primary school.

Co-ordinated by Integrated Community Schools, Dundee the programme covered sixteen weeks and included the whole school (P1-P7) with joint aims of exploring behaviour and feelings concerned with bullying and consulting pupils on anti-bullying strategies.

Focussing on the pupils' life in school and their wider community an Anti-Bullying week was held, beginning with a drama performance by "One Step Behind" and followed up by three sequential workshops delivered by the programme partners. A parent/carer awareness workshop was held during the week to promote a partnership ethos of working together. During the

programme parents were kept informed via a Partnership for Prevention stall at parent contact evenings.

Following the anti-bullying week P5 and P6 pupils participated in eight workshops to explore preventative and support strategies which the school management team will consider when developing and actioning the schools anti-bullying policy.

Programme workshop included:

- Exploring how bullying behaviour impacts on pupils mental health – delivered by the Primary Mental Health Team.
- Using circle time to learn about the pupils' experience of bullying in school and the wider community and promoting their rights and responsibilities as citizens – delivered by Barnardo's SPACE project.
- Encouraging pupils to consider their actions and consequences explore values and attitudes and contribute to preventative and support strategies within the school – delivered by Tayside Police and education staff.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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The Outline series provides an opportunity for members of school communities to describe good practice. An opportunity to participate in the series is offered to schools presenting workshops at Network events.

How are these initiatives being monitored and evaluated?

Each agency has developed their own evaluation documentation. A willingness to share information amongst the partners has helped the evaluation process. Statistical, written and anecdotal evidence has been collected.

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

Addressing bullying behaviour and prevention strategies demands consideration to a wide range of issues and themes. As the programme developed and pupils involvement increased we could see the potential to explore and expand on each workshop, and it became a challenge to stay focussed on each theme!

What has worked well?

Parent pupils and staff saw the programme as a positive and constructive welcoming new faces and ideas into their school.

Pupils and classroom teachers worked together to identify and clearly define bullying behaviour amongst everyday peer conflicts. This has had a positive effect within the class room.

The involvement of the Community Liaison Constable throughout the programme reinforced the anti-bullying message. It also allowed him to respond to individual cases liaising with families and pupils out with workshops.

What did not work & lessons learned?

It proved a challenge to stay focussed on the programme as our relationships with pupils and staff developed. We could see the potential for learning at every stage in the process.

Lessons learned:

A variety of approaches and perspectives is the key to success.

Future plans?

Brackens Primary School is currently working on an anti-bullying leaflet charting the progress of the programme for pupils and parents.

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

Contact Ashley McIntosh for any more information.

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