

United Against Bullying School Case Study: Monitoring and responding to attendance levels

How [school] monitored and responded accordingly to attendance levels

Context of our anti-bullying work

Attendance remains high on the agenda for [school], the school promotes positive behaviour and good attendance through its use of curriculum and learning materials. Good attendance and behaviour by pupils will be recognised appropriately.

Due to the nature of the school, we have a number of students who have been previous school refusers, have previously had a very negative experience in a mainstream school, or have medical issues that impact on the attendance.

Due the vulnerability of our students, safety and relationships remain high on our priorities and as such we monitor attendance very closely and provide support to families where attendance is a concern.

What we hoped to achieve

- To promote school attendance
- To ensure that Bullying is not a factor in school absence
- Build positive relationships with families
- Offer help/support to families at the earliest opportunity

The action we took

- Good attendance is promoted throughout the whole school and all absence is followed up on the morning of absence.
- We have an in-house family support team that work closely with the staff and the reception team and any absences of concerns are flagged to the team and followed up.
- Students are aware that any continued absence will be followed up by a home visit to understand the reasons why.
- Students receive certificates in school for good attendance
- The school creates a stimulating environment whereby children want to come to school. In the most recent ABA questionnaire the highest percentage scored that they

always felt safe in school, always got on well with their teachers and always felt that they belonged.

- The school offer an in house family support team that work was a designated family hub, a neutral, comfortable environment where meetings/direct work/cups of tea happen.
- The family support team is promoted through coffee mornings, inductions packs, parent's evenings, referral
- Where required we complete attendance meetings with families and agree on an attendance contract and actions/realistic expectations are agreed and monitored.
- There is a dedicated area on the website for attendance and this incorporates child friendly versions and interactive website links.
- Children access direct 121 sessions with family support workers if they have any concerns/anxieties regarding accessing school.
- Referrals are made to social care/education welfare where necessary, if early help hasn't been sufficient.

Impact and outcomes of the work

Children and parents know to contact the family hub at the earliest opportunity if they have any concerns about attendance.

Parents and children will raise concerns directly with staff/family support workers and know that this will then be managed quickly and efficiently.

Parents will raise any issues particularly in regards to social media and are confident that staff will tackle this with students within school before there is an opportunity for this to escalate.

Due to the positive relationship we build with parents, issues are generally raised quickly and therefore resolved quickly ensuring all children involved feel happy, secure and confident about the resolution.

We have various posters, visuals around the school encouraging children to speak out and pictures specifically of the family support team.

What we have learned

The earlier that attendance issues are addressed the best outcome for the child happens. We have many issues of students worrying about something that has been said, sent on a social media platform and therefore want to avoid school, parents are encouraged to send their children into school knowing that a member of staff will be on hand to meet the student and manage the situation at the start of the day. Social media is an area that we continue to work with all parents and students on.