

# **All Together Case study: Using peer mentor groups to help talk about bullying**

**How Magnus C of E Academy, Newark have created a peer mentor group to support all students affected by bullying.**

## **This case studies main focuses have been to:**

- Make peer mentor groups more visible to all pupils
- Encourage discussion about bullying
- Routinely position groups in visible locations
- Increase the confidence of peer group mentors
- Develop a student friendly Anti-Bullying Policy

## **Background on the School**

Our chaplain has worked hard to create a strong group of peer mentors, who wish to support other students in school. However, prior to starting our All Together action plan, our peer mentors tended to be used on a referral basis, with heads of year suggesting individuals that would benefit from their help.

This year, things have changed and we have tried to make our peer mentors much more visible and feed into our anti-bullying action plan.

## **Desired outcome**

This year we have heavily publicised our peer mentors, in order to make sure they are utilised to their full potential. By doing this we are aiming to encourage lots of open discussions about bullying in school, so we can work together with pupils to make them feel safe and valued.

## **What is the action we took?**

In Anti-Bullying Week we held year group assemblies to introduce the concept of defenders in school and promote our peer mentors.

Since then our peer mentors have positioned themselves in the library each lunch time on a rota basis, ready to speak to anyone who has needed them.

In addition to this, our peer mentors also take it in turns to answer any queries that have been placed into our student reception worry box and have manned anti-bullying information stands at parents' evenings.

Finally, our peer mentor meetings have also been used to develop a student friendly anti-bullying policy and discuss the effectiveness of our new reporting strategies this year.

## **Outcome**

The peer mentors themselves have become much more confident this year, as they have been required to talk to new students and parents about their role in school.

Around school, students now know who the peer mentors are and where they can be found and on parents evenings it has been refreshing to see parents engaging with our mentors and, through them, our new bullying strategies.

We will also be using our peer mentors during our transition week in the hope that our new Year 7's feel they have a connection with some of our older students before they start, easing any worries they may have.