

United Against Bullying School Case Study: Addressing bullying on home to school transport

How Springfield School ensured that students feel safe on their journey to and from school and improved relationships with transport staff

Context of our anti-bullying work

Springfield School is a generic Special School meaning we provide education for young people with a range of needs. The school has expertise in working with pupils who have profound and multiple learning difficulties, severe learning difficulties including those with communication problems, Autistic Spectrum Disorder and complex needs, and those with moderate learning difficulties. The school provides education to over 69 students aged between 4 and 11 from all over Staffordshire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, and Stoke on Trent. The school is organised through a combination of chronological age, key stage groups and learning needs.

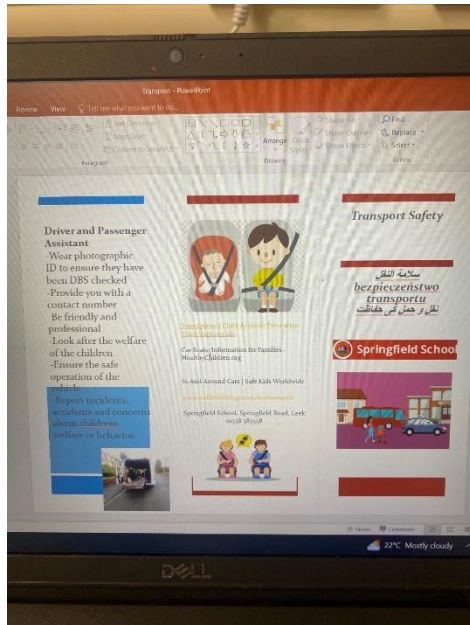
The majority of students are transported to and from school via the Local Authority via taxi/minibus etc. Some students have significant journeys to and from school.

What we hoped to achieve

- To ensure students feel safe on their journey to and from school
- To ensure that unstructured times are well monitored
- To ensure the wider community have access to school staff if and when needed
- To minimise the risk of children experiencing bullying outside of school

The action we took

- We have a meeting with the transport team at the beginning of every academic year to build relationships, ensure all providers are aware of the vulnerabilities of our students
- Spot checks on id badges, dates for all taxi drivers and escorts
- School transport expectations sent out to all children/parents each academic year
- Introduction visit during the summer holidays
- Curriculum covers anti bullying within and outside of school, online and off line
- Staff are visible every morning and every afternoon to greet children and drivers
- Drivers/escorts report any concerns regarding attitudes/behaviours on the journey
- Any safeguarding incidents reporting to the local authority transport team
- Produced transport leaflets and dedicated pages on the website.



Impact and outcomes of the work

- Drivers and escorts have a positive relationship with students and school staff
- We have a robust system in place during the morning and afternoon ensuring that all children are safe entering and leaving the school premises
- Transport staff know to raise concerns with school staff and this has been extremely positive in managing issues at the beginning of the school day
- All transport staff engage in safeguarding training
- Children do not have unstructured periods of time at the beginning or end of the day where they can congregate outside of the school building, minimising any risk of face to face bullying.

What we have learned

Transport staff play a key role in been aware of any conflict, behaviour issues ahead of or after he school day this can enable us to manage situation that we would otherwise know about.