

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

How Cranborne Middle School, Dorset, relaunched an initiative to report unwanted behaviour on home to school transport

Context of our anti-bullying work

Approximately 70% of the 340 children at Cranborne Middle School are brought in by bus.

There are 7 buses, varying in size from a minibus to a double decker.

For over 20 years, the school has put in place increasing support to keep the children (from Y5-Y8) safe on their bus journey:

- Year 8 Bus Monitors (who take the register of all pupils and keep an eye on bus behaviour but are not expected to intervene but are expected to report.)
- Bus Reporting slip-historically open to Bus Monitors only
- Bus Code of Conduct-which has been used for over 10 years.

What we hoped to achieve

To relaunch a new Bus Reporting Slip, which can be used by all pupils on all buses, meaning all can reporting behaviour which contravenes the Bus Code of Conduct.

All pupils feel empowered that they can report unwanted behaviour on the bus, in order to make their journey a safe and peaceful one.

The action we took

- September 2023-Bus assembly with SLT, all Bus Teachers and all pupils who travel by bus.
- Bus Monitors chosen by Bus Teachers and briefed as to their role.
- 3 members of staff on a rota for a week on bus duty at the end of each day. They enter each bus before it leaves to check behaviour and seat belts.
- Bus Monitors tick off pupils as they enter their bus, separate clipboards for KS2 and 3.
- Bus reporting slips are in every tutor room and in a central point in the school, in case pupils need to fill one in as they get off the bus. These slips are then given by the pupil to their Bus Teacher.
- The teacher then investigates the matter and gets in touch with parents/carers if needed. They record this on the slip and this is filed away and recorded on our SIMs database.

Impact and outcomes of the work

- Bus Monitors feel less pressure, as everyone can report.
- Pupils who travel by bus feel they have a voice and any incident will be taken seriously.
- Bus Teachers love the slip, as it's a paper reminder of action needed and is clearly trackable.
- Pupils who have been moved up the Bus Consequences ladder feel that it is fair because it is investigated properly by the Bus Teacher and they are able to put their side of the story and witness statements are sought to be able to gauge a full picture.

Developments are needed with the following in the coming year:

- Bus pupils being more willing to be upstanders.
- Bus Monitors being better role models
- Mobile phone usage being banned as part of the Bus Code of Conduct.

What we have learned

There continues to be issues on the buses, as the driver is the only adult and some of our children struggle to self-regulate and we cannot stop mobile phone usage. However, we strive to maintain high standards of behaviour on the bus and deal with every reported incident swiftly and effectively by the Bus Teacher, with children being moved up the Bus Consequences and parents/carers being involved at each level of consequence.