

United Against Bullying School Case Study: Using a neutral location to have a discussion

How The Quay School used a neutral location to have a discussion about bullying

Context of our anti-bullying work

The Quay School provides places for pupils who have been permanently excluded, are at risk of exclusion or are unable to attend mainstream school for medical reasons.

Many of the students have experienced bullying first-hand, some as perpetrators, some as victims. Our aim at the Quay School is to provide students with the opportunity to reflect and talk about their behaviour with peers as well as staff in order to understand the impact it has on all involved.

What we hoped to achieve

We have a small group of teenage girls who were bullying other students to the point they did not want to come to school. This was not just happening in school, it was outside school too, having a huge impact on all their lives.

We decided to work with all of them together, the group of girls and their 'victims' to try to get them working alongside each other amicably.

The action we took

We involved the parents to discuss the situation with their daughters, and to encourage them that the best course of action was to deal with the situation and not ignore it or make it worse. On their arrival at school we took them all to our local coffee shop where we explained that they needed to talk together to sort out their differences and explain how each felt about things. The discussion was supported by members of staff.

Impact and outcomes of the work

Positive outcomes.

- Students themselves left the meeting as friends and this has remained.
- The wider groups are more settled as the conflict is no longer present affecting their learning.

- The school has benefitted as the students involved are now actively speaking to other students about the negative impact of bullying.
- Parents are happy that the conflict out of school is now settled.

What we have learned

Taking the students to a comfortable neutral location was a really good idea. They were more open to listening to what each other had to say and to discussing what they could do to move forward.