

United Against Bullying School Case Study: Taking action in response to complaints

How Rainham School for Girls took action in response to complaints

Context of our anti-bullying work

The school was receiving a large number of complaints regarding bullying from both students and their parents and carers. Upon investigation, many of these incidents were stand alone unpleasant incidents, and not indicative of a pattern of bullying behaviour. A number of families were also waiting a long time before reporting incidents of bullying.

What we hoped to achieve

A shared understanding among all members of our school community about what bullying was, and to give them the confidence to report bullying earlier so that we could intervene.

The action we took

SLT created a workshop bespoke to each year group, focussing on the key definition of bullying, the effects of bullying, case studies and interventions that can be put in place to help and prevent further incidents.

Impact and outcomes of the work

A number of students disclosed that they had been the targets of bullying, which enabled us to intervene promptly. Evaluation in tutor time showed a greater understanding of the term bullying. A parent survey highlighted significant improvement where parents were happy with how the school had dealt with bullying.

What we have learned

We were surprised by the variance in understanding of the term bullying, so spending the time unpicking a shared definition was valuable. We linked the workshop to a new monitoring sheet, so that any interventions could be followed up with individual students to ensure there was no repetition.