

United Against Bullying School Case Study: Using the expertise of external agencies

How Bottisham Village College worked with a behaviour and inclusion consultant to improve pastoral practice

Context of our anti-bullying work

The college has had a pastoral behaviour team for a long time. Their experience and expertise is great and diverse, but we wished to supplement it with outside.

What we hoped to achieve

We wanted outside expertise that could be accessed without going through a cumbersome referral process. We also wanted this expertise to be rapidly accessible to students, and to be delivered in a way that enabled outside providers to work with school staff, and to model good practice.

The action we took

A behaviour and inclusion consultant was employed by the school. He was a former policeman who previously had worked with us. He come in once a week and works with targeted students, sometimes on an ongoing basis. Among other things, he works with perpetrators of bullying to get them to understand how their actions impact on others, and how what they have done relates to the law. He encourages them to be accountable for their actions and conduct. He gives staff within the school advice about how to handle particular cases, and he liaises with parents.

Impact and outcomes of the work

We now have the capacity to deal with more complex cases, freeing staff up to deal with other priority cases. We have an outside voice who is able to reinforce the key messages that we give. Students who have been perpetrators of bullying in the past have been enabled to see the impact of their actions with a consequent reduction in the frequency of their bullying.

What we have learned

We have learnt the value of supplementing LA and school provision with bespoke outside support, such as this or YMCA counselling.