

United Against Bullying School Case Study: Ensuring all pupils, including SEND, feel listened to

How Smarden Primary School ensured that all pupils felt listened to

Context of our anti-bullying work

Even though we are a small school we have an increasing number of pupils with SEND and social and emotional barriers and difficulties. These pupils are more susceptible to bullying and are part of the reason we are very keen to be an United Against Bullying school.

What we hoped to achieve

We want all our pupils to feel listened to and to be able to communicate any worries or concerns, particularly our most vulnerable pupils. This has been central to our tutoring programme - A Champion for Every Child.

The action we took

1. Regular assemblies and lessons - accessible for all. Clear definition of bullying shared with actions, methods of communication shared regularly, posters around the school. Pupil-led assemblies on anti-bullying (not just anti-bullying week!). Content of assemblies and lessons shared weekly with parents in our newsletter.
2. Strategies for our non-verbal pupils e.g. communication books, wristbands, talk buddies, worry boxes.
3. Set up Haven - quiet lunch room with Anti-Bullying lead. Opportunities to talk.
4. Check-ins with key pupils at key times of the day e.g. end of break, end of lunch and the end of the day.
5. Use of a restorative approach to unpick friendship issues and conflict.
6. Action taken following pupil surveys e.g. additional supervision around the toilets where children felt less safe.
7. Pupil Leadership roles - Safeguarding Champions, Jigsaw Leaders, Online Safety Ambassadors (which include some of our most vulnerable pupils).
8. Regular contact with parents (e.g. at least once a week with A Champion for Every Child tutoring pupils).
9. Set up suggestion boxes for pupils.
10. Well-being governor appointed to hold staff to account - runs pupil, parent and staff surveys.

Impact and outcomes of the work

<https://www.headteacher-update.com/best-practice-ezine/A-Champion-for-Every-Child-%20A-case-study-of-one-to-one-tutoring-provision/245981/>

- Pupil surveys have shown a reduction in anxiety (tools to manage anxiety) for key pupils and improved ability to communicate with staff and peers.
- Able to resolve issues swiftly before they escalate.
- Pupil-voice central to everything we do.
- Parent voice has supported the positive impact of A Champion for Every Child tutoring has had.

What we have learned

This is just the start of our journey and we still have a long way to go. Moving forward our work on Uniting Against Bullying will continue to have a high priority in our School Improvement Plan.

We are grateful to the ABA for helping us to reflect on where we are, challenge us and support us through the use of high quality resources.