

United Against Bullying School Case Study: Addressing cyberbullying through assemblies and monitoring

How Sandbach High School and Sixth Form reduced the number of cyberbullying incidents

Context of our anti-bullying work

In year 7 and 8 there has been a significant increase in using social media inappropriately. Students have been using offensive language towards other students particularly on WhatsApp, shaming students on their appearance and using sexualised language.

What we hoped to achieve

- To reduce the number of incidents with regards to cyber bullying.
- Educate Year 7 and 8 students through the delivery of assemblies, specifically how to keep safe online and cyber bullying.
- To increase our filter and monitoring security/system within in school.
- To ensure parents are up to date and involved in training to help keep their child safe online.

The action we took

Students have received mentoring and restorative work with the Pastoral Team. Where incidents have been logged, assessed, sanctioned and communicated with parents. These students have then attended small workshops with our designated Police Officer who has educated the students on the laws around cyber bullying, inappropriate use of social media and the risks of sharing images without consent. In addition to this both year groups have had an online safety assembly covering the 4C's and the impact of what their actions could be. In March they will have assemblies and workshops on Cyber Bullying. In PSHCE year 7 have completed a unit on friendships and bullying and Year 8 have completed a unit on Online Safety.

Finally, all parents of students at our school were invited to attend a parental engagement meeting on how to keep your child safe online. This was delivered by our designated police officer and it informed parents about current issues with social media, issues the police were dealing with and what parents could do at home to help monitor how students use their mobile phones.

Impact and outcomes of the work

We now have a reduction in the number of incidents that are related to cyber bullying. Parents have responded positively to the workshops delivered to their children and this has been shared through emails from the parents. 37 parents turned up to the parental engagement meeting and came away with lots of useful strategies on how to keep their child safe online. The students involved in the cyber bullying incidents have not been involved in any further incidents so far. In fact, two of the students have signed up to be an anti-bullying ambassador.

We now want to deliver cyber bullying and online safety assemblies to our feeder primary schools so that they are more aware of the consequences and dangers around this, ready for when they start in September. This will start after the Easter half term and will be delivered by the anti-bullying ambassadors.

What we have learned

Further bespoke work is needed for students with SEN to fully ensure that they understand the consequences and dangers of online safety and cyber bullying. We also want to make the students more aware of SEN and bullying and our first event is a cinema night based on Wonder for Year 7 and 8. This will be a charity event where all money will go to the Peter Pan centre (local charity) which supports the education of SEN students.