

All Together Case study: How recognising kindness improves a helpful and friendly school environment

How Spring Gardens Primary, North Tyneside are improving the schools atmosphere with kindness awards.

This case studies main focuses have been to:

- Solve kindness issues with upper Key Stage 2
- Encourage a friendlier environment
- Introduce a kindness certificate for pupils'

Background on the School

Last year, we were having some issues with kindness in upper Key Stage 2 and decided to try and address it as a whole school issue. We realised that there was quite a lot done in Key Stage 1 to promote being kind and getting on with each other (including circle times, picture books with a focus and small group discussions) however by Key Stage 2 children were understanding what they should be doing in and saying in the class just they weren't necessarily continuing the behaviour out of the classroom.

Desired outcome

To encourage a kinder, more thoughtful and caring environment where children are able to encourage and emphasise with each other at all times.

What is the action we took?

We have set up a weekly 'kindness certificate' assembly where each class has a weekly winner who receives their certificate in their key stage assembly. Children are chosen through a ballot where their classmates can nominate them (giving a reason for the vote) and the teacher picks the name out of a hat.



We also have an assembly rota and break down of topics to ensure a range of relationship goals and ideals are covered each term.

Outcome

Children have been made more aware of encouraging kind and caring behaviour. They know how to identify it and enjoy praising each other when they see it.

E.g.'....was really kind, they looked after me when they saw I had no one to play with'.

What we have learned

We began by the teacher choosing the pupil to award the certificate to however by putting the onus on the class to identify and respond positively to 'friendship goals' it has had an even better impact and we have found that the children are actively seeking kindness and providing praise when they see it.