



Case study reference:
1. Title: Consulting with parents about the school's anti-bullying policy
2. Area (Local Authority and Region): Thurrock/Eastern
3. What was the issue? [100 words max] Parents were of the view that bullying was rife in the school and that staff were not tackling the problem. The Headteacher was spending an inordinate amount of time dealing with parental complaints that could have been dealt with by classteachers. The Headteacher and the staff recognised that issues had been brought to their attention but the incidents were mainly rough play rather than specific bullying and that the systems were in place to tackle any issues.
4. What action was taken? [100 words max] The headteacher sought support from the ABA Regional Adviser, AB Lead in the LA and Health services to look into the issue. The initial audits and discussions by the outside agencies with the children agreed with the school view therefore more investigation of parent perception was required. The school carried out a bullying audit with parents using the survey from ABA, looked at current anti-bullying policy and updated it. Training was provided for staff by the ABA RA to raise their awareness of bullying and how to reduce its impact on targets and bullies, particularly for lunchtime staff. Parents were consulted on the anti-bullying policy with the support of the ABA RA and the AB Lead in the LA. The parents evening provided parents with information on what bullying is and how parents could support their children if they were targets or bullies. Parents were engaged in a consultation about the school's draft anti-bullying policy using a Jigsaw activity. This involves dividing parents into groups according to the number of areas of the policy that are being looked at. In this instance there were 5 so we organised 5 groups. These are the 'home groups'. Each person in their home group is given a letter e.g. a,b,c,d,e and is then asked to sit with other members who have this letter. These are then the specialist group. Group a is then given a piece of the policy to comment on, group b has a different piece and so on. The groups elect a chair and scribe and then are asked to comment on the policy. After a set time, the specialist team members return to their home groups and each member has to tell the others about the aspect of the policy they have discussed. By this method everyone has a role. It took very little time – just 25 minutes for discussion and 10 minutes for feedback and was a very useful exercise. .
5. What impact has this had (so far)? [100 words max] 100% of school staff reported that they felt more confident about dealing with bullying following the training. For the parents training, 25 parents reported that they felt more confident about dealing with bullying after the event, 2 felt the same and 2 reported that they were less confident i.e. 86% of parents felt more confident. Many reported finding the process very useful. The consultation exercise highlighted the amount of jargon in the anti-bullying policy that parents did not understand. The Headteacher is making connections with the local community group to see if more can be done to address bullying that takes place outside school and to inform community members about school policy. An Ofsted inspection took place in the summer term and found no evidence of bullying and

recognised that although a small number of parents felt that the school had not dealt with the behaviour issue well, the children felt safe, knew what to do if there was a problem and were confident that staff would deal with the problem.

6. How did the above action help to embed anti-bullying work in your area? [75 words max)

Staff felt more confident in their dealings with children and the curriculum was changed to incorporate the ideas from the training attended by staff.

Parents who attended the meeting have a better understanding of how the school deals with bullying complaints.

7. Additional information (OPTIONAL):

Do you have any images/ documents/ websites (including LA websites if relevant) to help illustrate this case study? *If yes, please attach document or paste website address.*

Contact details of author (OPTIONAL): [Name], [Email], [Phone]

Susan Hughes, Headteacher Horndon-on-the-Hill, Thurrock

headteacher@horndon-on-the-hill.thurrock.sch.uk