

Woodfield School

Case Study: Create a greater sense of School Community and belonging for pupils and their families



Healthy Schools Theme:

Emotional Health and Wellbeing

School Context:

Woodfield School is a Special needs School for pupils in Key Stage 3 and 4
Number of pupils 97
Location Merstham RH13PR
100% SEND
26%FSM/disadvantaged pupils

Identified Priority:

To create a greater sense of school community and belonging for pupils and their families. This was linked with our SDP where it states that we will strengthen a whole school ethos, encourage British values and improve the safe guarding and welfare of our pupils. Unlike pupils that attend mainstream secondary schools our pupils and families find it difficult to socialize and meet other families and take part in outside activities.

To encourage pupils and their families to take a more active part in sport in particular cycling and running.

Outcomes:

We wanted to encourage more pupils and their families to attend school functions and activities. Improve uptake by 40%

We wanted our policies and school protocols to be parent/carer friendly.

Following previous surveys we wanted to improve the % of pupils that felt happy and secure at school. (2012 result-86%)

We would try to engage more parents / carers to support the FRIENDS of Woodfield. Improve number of parent supporters by 20%

To encourage more pupils and their families to take a more active part in sport in particular cycling and running

Activities / Interventions:

Information was collected to find out how many families attend school functions such as parents evenings, sports day, and social events arranged by FRIENDS. We decided that we should improve our communication with parents as often letters sent home with the pupils never arrived! We now send texts, emails and make phone calls to encourage families to come to our school events. Reducing the cost and sometimes not charging has also encouraged more families to attend functions. We also try to organize transport for some families.

We also introduced a face book page for the Friends of Woodfield.

More opportunities were put in place to encourage parents to come to school. Pupils in Year 7 and 8 held an afternoon tea for their parents and carers.

Reducing the price of the annual BBQ run by the FRIENDS and including more events involving all the classes and their tutors encouraged more parents to attend.

Our 2015 Christmas production Joseph was a sell out and we had fantastic feedback from parents. Parents supported the FRIENDS by running stalls at the Christmas fair on the day of the performance and we made over £600.

Information was also collected to help us identify which pupils did not attend school clubs and activities. We then encouraged these pupils to attend more clubs. By the time pupils leave Woodfield they are expected to have completed 10 tasks which include attending a school club and taking part in a residential experience. PP funding is used to pay for taxis so pupils can attend after school clubs.

We carried out another questionnaire with our pupils to find out if they were happy at school and what developments they would like to see in the school. The pupil's suggestions were considered by School Council and SLT. The repeated pupil questionnaire in 2016 showed that 87% enjoyed school, 92% of pupils felt they had an adult in school they could confide in. 72% of pupils believed they behaved well in school. The pupils asked for more lunch time clubs which we have implemented – See Healthy School review. Recently we were given some play equipment which is proving a great hit with the pupils at break times. We now have a “Buddy bench” where pupils can

sit if they need someone to talk to.

Every pupil in the school took part in the Big Peddle Day to promote cycling as a healthy choice and an alternative mode of transport. Also a full days off-road cycling and an overnight camping/cycling event was held for the pupils with higher biking ability – this will run again in autumn 2016.

We are investing in Bikeability instructors to visit the school to improve cycling skills and safety (2016-17). Cycling remains on the curriculum for Year 9, 10 & 11 pupils, this will hopefully expand into years 7 & 8 in the near future. Although many pupils use transport to get to school, cycling is still promoted as an alternative travel for the few who live within the local area.

A school Sports Council has been set up to aid with the running of sport in the school – a pupil from each class has a representative and they have been given a sporting activity to be in charge of.

A running club has been set up by two year 9 pupils in the summer term to promote running. With support from staff they aim to continue the club into 2016-17 and enter the 'Run Reigate' half marathon event in September 2016.

All staff members have been encouraged to run a lunchtime club with the expectation that the behaviour will improve with more pupils active or busy.

Off site cycling and overnight cycling trips have been organized. We even had an Extreme Learning Day for our PP pupils.

The school council along with Governors and SLT and parents looked at our current policies and protocols to ensure they were parent/carer friendly. As a result some improvements were made.

We have tried very hard to encourage our parents to take a more active part with the running of the FRIENDS of Woodfield. Sadly very few parents are willing to join and run the committee but several Year 7 parents have shown a keen interest in supporting events organized by the FRIENDS.

Impact:

Next Steps:

Woodfield is committed to improving and supporting the social and emotional development of our pupils and their families. I feel we have created a greater sense of school community by improving communication with our parents, arranging more activities and making our policies and protocols more user friendly. There is still more we can do and we plan to build on our success.

Our plans for the future include

A member of staff attending a rebound therapy course.

All staff completing diversity and safe guarding training and updates.

The introduction of Makaton for the new Year 7 cohort and staff becoming familiar with it.

Continuing to improve our lunch time and out of school activities.

Introduce "Toot Toot"

Find someone to take over the running of the FRIENDS of WOODFIELD.

We are thinking of putting all letters on the web site to hopefully improve communication.

Aims for 2016/17: Build into the curriculum more cycle related opportunities such as work placements/experience at local cycle shop, cycling to college under adult tuition, setting cycling challenges for KS4 during visits to Donyngs during PE lessons and exploring the possibility of purchasing fitness bikes for the school for PE.

Senior Leader Quote:

Woodfield School is committed to Healthy Schools. It supports our school values and beliefs. It is the very ethos of Woodfield School.

C Simms Assisant Head

Photographs



Year 11 BBQ 2016