

Anti-Bullying Workshop Evaluation

This document briefly summaries the main points to emerge from the evaluation forms completed by pupils and teachers following the anti-bullying workshop held in the Tara Centre in Omagh on 15th November 2006. This was the second anti-bullying workshop to be held, the first one having taken place in Belfast on the 25th October 2006 with pupils from post-primary schools.

Pupil Evaluation

A total of 35 pupils (20 boys and 15 girls) the majority of whom (82%) were 9-10 years old participated in the anti-bullying workshop. Just over two thirds of these pupils (68%) rated the overall event as 'excellent'. When asked to specify which particular part of the day they enjoyed most, the primary school pupils (like the post-primary school pupils) rated the play on bullying and the workshops as the most popular with one out of two pupils (50%) citing one or both activities as the most enjoyable event/s of the day. Just under one in five primary school pupils (18%) rated either the discussion on the play as enjoyable whilst 16% rated either the feedback session and/or the research findings presented at the start of the workshop as their favoured activity.

When asked to explain why they had found a particular aspect of the day enjoyable, the most popular response was that the information on bullying had been presented in a fun and interesting way and that the workshops enabled pupils to talk about bullying and to listen to what other pupils had to say from other schools and their experiences of this issue. However, the overarching comment made by the primary school pupils was the opportunity to learn and talk about bullying in a fun and engaging way. Typical comments from the primary school included:

Because every activity was fun and none of it was boring I was content to hear what was being said.

I enjoyed the play best because it explained a lot about bullying and what you should do.

I loved the part where we designed the graffiti wall. It was excellent – I enjoyed the day.

I enjoyed the play on bullying because it was about what you should do if someone bullies you. The activities were really fun and really good.



It was very enjoyable and fun to listen to what people thought about things.

Question 5 asked pupils to write one important message they had taken from the event. The most popular message cited was to 'Stop the bully' or 'Don't Bully'. Another popular message was to 'tell someone'. Typical messages pupils took away from the day's event included:

Don't bully it's not nice. Try to include as many people as you can in games and be nice to them.

Do not bully smaller people.

Get the bullies to stop in our school.

One of NICCY's priorities is to ensure that children and young people are empowered to voice their opinion on issues which affect them and that their views are given due weight in decision making processes. To this end, question 6 asked pupils to tick 'yes' or 'no' as to whether they felt their ideas had been listened to and valued. Overall, 31 pupils replied 'yes' to this question and four pupils replied 'don't know'. When asked to explain their answer, the most popular response was that the workshop provided an opportunity for pupils to listen to and learn from one another. Typical comments included:

It was an excellent day.

We communicated well.

I think my ideas were listened to because what I was said was important.

I think everybody was very nice to everybody. Thank you.

The final question asked pupils if there was anything they would change to improve the workshops. Encouragingly, most pupils who answered this question wrote very positive messages such as 'No, it's already very good' or 'No you couldn't change anything about the day because this is as good as it gets. The only other suggestion was to 'Make the graffiti wall bigger'.



Teacher Evaluation

Eight teachers from 10 ten primary schools in the Omagh area participated in the workshop. Seven out of eight teachers rated this event as 'excellent' and one teacher rated the event as 'okay'. Overall the workshop discussion which took place with teachers was rated as the most enjoyable part of the day followed by the play on bullying and the presentation of the research findings. When asked to explain why they had enjoyed these particular activities, the majority of teachers emphasised the value of the workshop in providing an opportunity for them to learn about strategies other schools were using to deal with bullying.

Typical comments included:

The Research confirmed my suspicions that there is a significant amount of bullying in our schools. Workshops provided some useful ideas and opportunities to clarify thinking.

Excellent opportunity to share ideas and learn from other schools practices.

It was very interesting to hear the research findings. Pupils greatly enjoyed the play, it put across a very important message. .

When asked to rate how useful they had found the roundtable discussion with other teachers, 100% of teachers rated this as an 'extremely useful' exercise. The main reason for this appeared to be because the discussion afforded an opportunity for teachers to discuss what had worked and what hadn't worked in regards to the own school development of a policy on bullying. In their comments the emphasis was very much on the need to be proactive rather than reactive when dealing with bullying. Typical responses included:

I got some very good ideas for example, about school councils.

Good examples of strategies.

Question 5 asked teachers if they could write one message they took away from the event. By far the most popular response was the need to include pupils



in the drawing up of a school anti-bullying policy as bullying is an issue which can have wide repercussions for the entire school community. All of the teachers who answered this question made reference to the need to listen to pupils and their ideas about tackling bullying through meaningful consultation. Given that main message pupils took from the day's events was to stop the bully it would appear that teachers who actively and genuinely listen to what pupils have to say around the issue of bullying maybe in a much more powerful position to proactively tackle this issue in schools than teacher's who do not engage with pupils. A typical comment summing up the main message they had gained from the day's proceedings included:

To make all pupils feel free to share ideas and make sure their contribution is valued in reviewing policy.

The final question asked what could be improved about the day's events. Only four teachers had suggestions about what could be improved upon and these comments were mostly very positive. They included:

Provide sample questionnaires for use in schools. More time – I personally would have enjoyed seeing/participating in pupils activities as these could be activities that I could take back to my school.

It was an excellent day. I feel that I gained a lot from today. Thank you.

