

St Stephen Churchtown Community primary School

Emotional health and Wellbeing - Criterion 5

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Healthy School Validation 2004

School Details and Context

St Stephen Churchtown CP School is a community Primary School for children ages from 4+ to 11yrs. We also have an attached Nursery facility, which cares for children from around 3+. The school has approximately 340 children at present. St Stephen is in a cluster of schools in the China Clay area of St Austell, which feed Brannel Secondary School.

How was the need identified?

We wanted to create an atmosphere, which inspired healthy, independent learning, as we are committed to actively promoting the health and wellbeing of the whole school community. This was an area we felt we could develop to ensure the aims of the school were met.

Chosen Criteria

We decided to focus on Criterion 5, Emotional Health and Wellbeing as this could encourage the development of initiatives to enhance the school environment for pupils, parents and staff.

Steps taken to meet the criteria

One of the first things we did was to provide easier access to fresh drinking water by encouraging children to bring drinking bottles into the classroom regularly. We were in the planning stages of a new staffroom and all members of staff were consulted on furnishings and the fitting of the new area. The staffroom is now completed and provides a comfortable restful area where all staff enjoy relaxing, meeting and preparing work. Both of these initiatives have made school life healthier, both physically and emotionally.

We decided to form a school council and visited one of our cluster schools to observe their council in action. After reading literature by the Healthy Schools team we met as a whole staff and decided how we wanted to develop our own council. The pupils were involved in the development of the council and they voted to call it Pupil Plan0et. Since the formation Pupil Plan-et has met regularly and has brought about significant changes in the school.

- Playground games have been designed and painted
- New soap dispensers have been put into the toilet areas
- Goal posts have been brought for the Key Stage 1 playground

- School rewards systems have been discussed.

Pupils Plan-et also voted on how to spend some money that was given to the school recently and decided to create a permanent collage in the hall. Pupils and staff alike, feel the Pupils Plan-et is an asset to the school and has helped to enhance relationships whilst giving the children an active role in the management of their school. On occasions such as a recent visit by Matthew Taylor, MP, the Pupils Plan-et took responsibility for explaining their role within the school and the pupils work in the subject of Global education.

Communications within the wider school environment have been developed in the following ways:

- New notice boards have been put in the foyer to inform parents of health related issues and Help-line numbers
- "Pupil's Newsletter" has been created and is circulated regularly to each classroom
- Achievements and success boards have been fitted in the school corridors

Who was involved in the process?

We formed a steering group including members of the Senior Management Team. Healthy Schools co-ordinator, governor, lunchtime supervisors, school crossing patrol person, school caretaker, teachers and school cook. Parents and children have also been consulted with and involved in the process of making our school a healthy one.

Outcomes/impact on pupils and the wider community

Children have been encouraged to develop their self-esteem and their ability to have an impact on their environment through Circle-Time and Pupils Plan-et. These initiatives have also improved communications and broken down barriers between children and between staff and children. This has had a positive impact on the emotional health and wellbeing of the whole school environment.