

Confederation of Schools Supporting and informing parents – Anti bullying Awareness seminars



Organisation

Surrey Heath Confederation of Schools sessions delivered by Bonny Holland, VT4S

Target Group(s)

Any parent or carer residing in Surrey Heath or with a child at a Surrey Heath school

Context

Feedback from other special interest seminars aimed at parents, indicated a demand for more information and advice regarding bullying/social mobbing in order that parents can better understand what constitutes bullying, the causes, effects and how to work with their child's school in a preventative manner.

Action planned

Three sessions were planned – two aimed at parents of primary aged children and one for secondary. The event for secondary parents was cancelled due to a very low uptake of places. Events were promoted through schools primarily in the form of fliers and posters and on the SH Confederation website.

Schools hosted the evening events free of charge and Surrey Heath Confederation provided funding for the presenter. No charge was made to parents.

The events were timed to coincide with Anti Bullying week and to support anti bullying messages being delivered in school as part of anti bullying week.

Outcomes and Impact

These seminars did not achieve the turnout the Confederation had hoped for, although the parents who did attend fed back that they had found the information extremely useful. It has been suggested that the low turnout could indicate a low level of bullying in schools within Surrey Heath and robust policies used to deal with bullying where it does occur, therefore there is a low demand from parents for information and advice on this subject.

Parents and staff who attended reported:

- Better understanding of the subject through a balanced presentation covering; what constitutes bullying; how to spot bullying, how parents can work with schools.
- Parents opened up about their own experiences, even going so far as to share workplace bullying experiences, and shared ideas with other parents on how to combat bullying.
- The host schools benefited from having additional contact with parents and an opportunity to share their own school ethos and practice with regard to tackling bullying.

The seminars met the initial brief of the project – to provide an opportunity for parents to feel better informed and supported with regard to this issue.

Next Steps

The seminars have been a positive step towards providing parental support, adult education and community access and some zone schools are reporting that they see a need for further sessions. Work is underway to plan sessions adapted to infant, junior and secondary that will focus on bullying (including cyber bullying) as well as peer pressure.