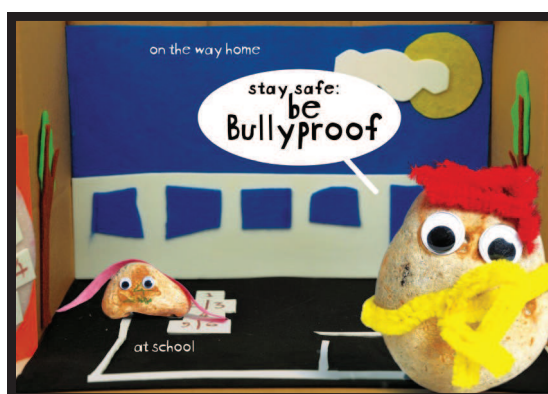


Anti Bullying Scrutiny Committee Report

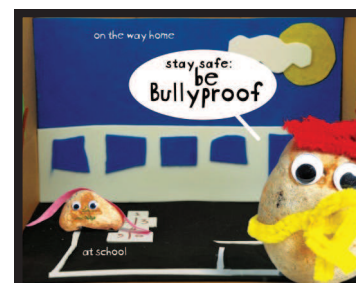


Safety Net Children and
Young People's Team.

Keeping Children, Young People and Families Safe. Safety Net's Children and Young People's Team.



Safety Net is a registered charity that promotes safety and wellbeing for children, young people and families. The Children and Young People's Team has 6 members of staff who work with children aged 8-16 in schools across Brighton and Hove. We deliver 1:1 and group work sessions to children and young people who have low self esteem and have experienced bullying. We also provide peer support training to Primary and Secondary school children.



SNAP: The Safety Net Assertiveness Project (SNAP) teaches assertiveness techniques and life skills leading to increased resilience to vulnerable children from across Brighton and Hove. Our partnership work with organisations such as MOSAIC, Mend, Young Carers' and Allsorts enables us to tailor our approach in delivering specific SNAP sessions to children with protected characteristics.

SNAP has been running for 4 years over which time we have supported 1469 children. Since 2012 we have provided SNAP sessions in 12 primary schools and 6 secondary sessions.

95% of children attending a SNAP course said they felt more confident and able to deal with situations better.

Peer Support: Our successful Playground Buddy programme has been delivered to Primary Schools across Brighton and Hove over the past 10 years. The aim of the scheme is to train selected children in inclusive playground games and teach them Protective Behaviours to enable them to support their peers and address minor relational conflict in the playground before it escalates into bullying.

In the past year, we have trained 162 children in 11 Brighton and Hove Primary schools. We host a Buddy Forum for staff and Buddies from across Brighton and Hove to meet and share good practice. We also provide Peer Mediation training to Secondary Schools, most recently to students at PACA.

“By having a dedicated team of pupils trained and regularly monitored to help improve their experience of school playtimes every student should feel the benefit. The buddies themselves feel they are “working together” with the staff on duty to make sure that all children feel included and safe”.

Sylvia Arnone, Somerhill Junior School

Supporting Transition and Personal Safety:

In a survey carried out by Safety Net with 310 Year 6 students at a Safety In Action event this year, the top concern about moving on to secondary school was bullying (37%) followed by friendships (12.5%) and getting lost (12%).

Our transition and personal safety sessions for Year 6 children explore the techniques and life skills needed to keep safe on the way to and from school as well as staying safe from bullying in school. As children become more independent and journey to and from school alone, they become more aware of community safety concerns such as safety on public transport, street drinking, drug taking and graffiti. The results of our consultations are fed back to the Local Action Teams for follow up. We have worked in partnership with Longhill High school to train their bus monitors in Stop Think Go and Peer listeners to support Year 7 children on transition.

We support Safety In Action week by delivering our personal safety risk assessment technique Stop, Think Go to groups of Year 6 students. **86% of the children at Safety In Action said they would use the Stop Think Go techniques to help them solve problems such as bullying when moving on to secondary school.** Bus monitors and Peer Mediators also delivered Stop Think Go sessions to Year 6 children during Safety In Action week.

Rights and Responsibilities: This programme for Secondary Students who have displayed bullying behaviour has been well received in Hove Park school with school staff commenting on a positive difference in the behaviour of participants following the four sessions.

Examples of good practise in schools

- The use of restorative justice approach to address bullying incidents.
- 'Don't Diss My Ability' day at Somerhill school.
- The production of the "Safe and Happy at St Mark's booklet for parents on how the school keeps children safe and how they address bullying.
- Peer support programmes to support inclusive playtimes and address low level conflict.
- Trained bus monitors to ensure safe journeys to and from school and report concerns.

54% of the young people that attended Secondary SNAP sessions said that they have been bullied in the past six months.

69% experienced verbal bullying.

50% physical bullying and 23% cyber bullying.

We have recently successfully bid to the Henry Smith charity for three years funding to continue and develop our SNAP programme. This will enable us to deliver our work to older children and broaden our scope to address the growing need for support with cyber bullying as well as a programme for young people who bully others.

Challenges and Recommendations

Safety Net has worked with schools and community groups across Brighton and Hove for 17 years demonstrating a continuous level of need for support with assertiveness training, anti bullying and keeping children safe.

Evaluation of the impact of our schemes is crucial in ensuring that we are not only successful in our aims but also that we can justify what has been achieved to our funders. This is difficult to achieve when we have limited access to information regarding data from the Safe and Well at School Survey from individual schools which would help us to more effectively target our support as well as evaluating the impact. Once we have delivered the service to schools, it is challenging to gain information about the impact of the programme, for example Playground Buddies. We try to address this by having a clear Service Level Agreement but also appreciate that form filling takes time for busy school staff.

During our personal safety sessions, we have found that school IT fire walls block access to our website and video clips that we use for training purposes. This will become an increasing challenge in the delivery of our e-safety programme.

Recommendations

Have a united approach across the Community and Voluntary Sector in partnership with schools to address bullying of all kinds.

Participation and consultation by Safety Net has been key to gaining information on how to deliver our services to children and young people. If they are involved in the process, they are more likely to understand and support the aims of the organisation and we ensure that our services meet the greatest need. Schools could further engage children and young people in the way that they deal with bullying, by encouraging them to re-write the anti bullying policy aimed at parents and children and summarising key, consistent steps that staff will take to address bullying. Feedback to parents and children about what action has been taken is also important.

Work with parents to address the way that they tell their children to respond to bullying. We are frequently told by children that their parents have told them that if someone hits them, they are to hit them back....harder!

Continue to encourage children and young people to take personal responsibility for the way they present in public and explore the impact their aggressive behaviour has upon others.

