

YOUTH WORK AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

INVERCLYDE ACADEMY, INVERCLYDE CONTEXT

A partnership between Inverclyde Youth Services and Inverclyde Academy which was established in 2017. Core support is 2x part time youth workers, in school one day each per week. This is supplemented through additional funding from SAC and PEF. Around 60 young people are supported every year.

WHAT WORK WAS UNDERTAKEN?

Targeted support from S1 onwards. Focus for Broad General Education is on health and wellbeing, literacy and numeracy as well as confidence and self-esteem. Senior phase focus on similar themes as well as looking at life skills and life beyond school. The work is underpinned by accreditation where appropriate and shaped according to the needs and interests of young people. The youth work team puts together a menu of options year on year that are informed by needs identified over the previous school session. School can add to these using PEF funding. All of the youth work programmes are mapped to Curriculum for Excellence experiences and outcomes. Young people having opportunities to shape their own activities, and to move through activities as they build confidence is important. The links between school and community are also key - over time, many young people access, or even help to shape, other youth work opportunities beyond school.

WHAT IMPACT HAS THE WORK HAD?

The work aims to tackle the attainment gap, targeting young people most in need of support. Young people's progress has been measured in relation to their wellbeing, their engagement in learning, their skills development and new qualification/accreditations gained.

QUANTITATIVE FEEDBACK

Data gathered in relation to a small sample group of 12 young people involved in youth work through school over the last 2 years suggests that all pupils made progress in relation to developing confidence, resilience and positive relationships, as well as skills in self-care, teamwork, decision-making, problem solving, organising and planning. They also built leadership and change-making skills.

QUALITATIVE FEEDBACK

Young People

"The experience helped me boost my confidence as I am not usually confident to speak or work with new people. It also made me realise that I can do a lot of things that I would never think I could have done. It has helped me a lot in life as I now have been trying harder in class and to keep myself in a good place, I can now speak out in the group and class."

"By gaining all these awards and participating it has given me more of a purpose to stay in school and try my best. It has made me think more that the teachers are trying to help teach me rather than them always targeting me because of my behaviour in 2nd year. This helped me in school as when I was younger I would give up when I found the classes too difficult, but now I try my best to complete the task at hand."

"During this programme I gained teamwork and communication skills, working with others, making choices and decisions I now feel I can do anything I set my mind to"

Teachers

"Since the groups, some of our young people have shown more confidence in voicing their opinions and answering out in classes. Some are showing more confidence in small group scenarios. Others have shown confidence in applying for courses and further qualifications after school."

"Our Impact Zone staff has seen an improvement in some of the young people's problem solving skills. They are coming into the department and trying these skills in Maths and Numeracy work."

Parents

"My son has been involved with these programmes since S1 and he had now just started S3, I have noticed he enjoys school much more now, he believes in himself and is getting better comments from his teachers who also notice a change in his attitude and his confidence has grown so much"