

Behaviour– Low Level Disruption

The Issue

7-8 years ago I became a Head of Year, having been a subject leader and tutor for the previous 6 years I wanted to tackle low level disruptive behaviour. Although Ofsted had never highlighted it as an issue, a large proportion of staff felt it was. I looked into some other schools to see what they were doing. I tried to introduce a form book that could also work for when pupils were in sets, this would look at positive behaviour as well as negative. The emphasis would be on promoting the positive behaviour of pupils and using this as a tool to discourage the minority. Unfortunately, SLT and other HOY did not like this idea.

The Next Stage

Over the next few years I set about looking at what we could use and as we moved into the digital age it was important that it was current and easy to use. Some new teachers at school were using Class Dojo, this was the sort of system I was looking for but did not link to anything so there was no central account that a data base of results could be kept and easily used by staff in charge of behaviour.

I then looked at SIMS Classroom Monitor, I found this being used in a couple of other schools, also a member of staff new to the school had been using it. SLT were listening to us and were interested in what it could do especially as it linked to SIMS, the downside was the cost but things were moving forward. Then a member of staff found Class charts, this linked to SIMS and was a fraction of the price.

Software Purchased

SLT were due to implement it, I said I would like to work on this with them for my project. As Leader of Year 8 it was agreed. The software was to role out to teachers in January, before Christmas Year Leaders were asked to use it and meet regularly to decide on Positives/Negatives and to guide on what actions require what points.

As part of the implementation, I ran training sessions for staff on how to use the software, the ease of use was a particular bonus and allowed making change possible.



Going Forward

This is still ongoing and will be for some time, pupils like the system especially in the younger years, I believe once pupils in year 8 have been using it since they have arrived it will be the norm. We are incorporating the merit system into it next year, we already have all our SEND, PP and general information on it, Ofsted really liked the use of it. Pupils are really starting to use the shop.

The link to SIMS is great and the fact SIMS talks back to it makes all the difference. I personally don't think my project and this software is finished and fully set up, there is still a long way to go but in terms of what I was wanting to achieve I believe we are well on the road to doing this, with continual work and support from all colleagues I think this is a great tool and one to really help with low level disruption.

Development & Issues

We rolled it out to parents at Easter, now parents can log on and look at the child's behaviour. We have also recently rolled out the rewards shop, pupils can cash in their net positive points to buy gifts and prizes. We have had to think about the way pupils can carry over points, positive and negative, how likely is it that pupils end up spending an awful lot of money. Some pupils who have the most negative points have seen it as a "Badge of Honour". Various strategies have been and are being tried, like having reward form times, pupils with negative points have to go to HOY during this time. If a whole class have no negative points over a week then a class mufti has been awarded. Some issues are still those members of staff that don't use it or only use the negative with not backing it up. Also the the old issue for children that always doing the right thing don't always get recognised.