

Improving behaviour and organisation during lunchtimes in a growing middle school

My School

My senior leadership role took place in a middle school with 661 children currently on roll between the ages of 9 to 13 years of age. Over the past two years, the school has increased in size by an additional 60 pupils and this is going rise again by another 30 pupils in September 2019.

Starting point

Due to an expanding school (with five form entry seen to rise to six form entry across the school by 2020-21) and a reduction in space brought about by the building of a new sports hall and an additional two classrooms and computer room; there has been a need to re-think lunchtimes and how they are organised for pupils.

The senior leadership team felt that the limited outdoor space we had needed to be utilised better and there were concerns around the behaviour of pupils in such a confined space.

Future of lunchtimes:

- Next year the lunchtimes will be split so year 5/6 share a lunch break and year 7/8 will have a separate one.
- A permanent Lead lunchtime supervisor will be employed to provide a link between lunchtime supervisors and pastoral team.

Impact/observations:

Staff: Staff still do not enjoy being supervisors but felt communication and their connection to the wider school community has improved.

Pupils: 45% agreed or strongly agreed that lunchtimes have improved this year. 80% enjoy lunchtimes. 76% were unsure or felt that behaviour was not good at lunchtime.

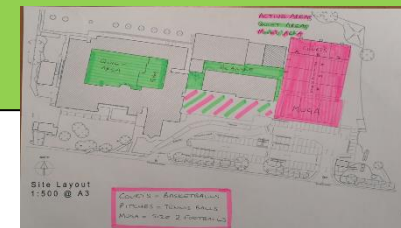
Initial Actions:

- A questionnaire was given to the lunchtime supervisors to get their opinions on lunchtime organisation and behaviour of pupils. Feedback from the questionnaires suggested that they didn't really enjoy the role or feel connected to the wider school community.
- Regular meetings were organised with lunchtime supervisors when any changes were made to lunchtimes.
- The layout of the playground was changed for ball games (see below).
- A system of collecting balls and equipment from a cupboard that was supervised began.
- A collection point for DVDs and board games was made in the staff room for 'wet play.'
- Meeting with my coach and head teacher occurred once or twice a half term to touch base and make minor changes to how lunchtimes were being run.
- First aid kits for lunch supervisors.
- Creation of a staff suggestion box.

Any questions?

Action plan:

- Ask the PTA for funding to go towards lunchtime equipment.
- Use the funding to purchase three basketball posts and open a school shop.
- Pupils to purchase own balls and games.
- Create a powerpoint and share with the staff and pupils of changes as they occurred.
- Provide lunchtime supervisors with lanyard cards with behaviour policy and restorative questions attached.
- Add a picture of each pupil to the lockdown packs in each class to help supervisors identify pupils during wet play.
- Employ someone who can organise play at lunchtimes in the MUGA.
- Employ a temporary Lead lunchtime supervisor.
- Monitoring staff on duty.



Blockers:

- Lack of funding.
- Limited resources/equipment. The equipment was also going missing.
- Shortage (and high turnover) of lunchtime supervisors.
- Lack of incentive for lunchtime supervisors.
- Lead lunchtime supervisor not employed.