

St Brendans School – Change4Life

Project Background – There has been a long standing issue at St Brendan’s Catholic Primary School with a lack of sportsmanship and negative attitudes in their year six boys. This problem had been worsening over the course of the year in this particular cohort, and ‘traditional’ interventions were proving unsuccessful. It was suggested that change 4 life club may be able to engage these pupils in something positive, promoting teamwork, social cohesion and positive group identity.

Delivering the Project – The change 4 life club was delivered by the PE coordinator at lunchtimes. In order to engage pupils in the club and promote attendance, free football tickets (through the Aston Villa FC tickets for schools scheme) were offered to all pupils who completed the six week course and met strict success criteria in daily school life. The adventure pack was used for its increased focus on problem solving, group based activities.

Project Impact – Pupils attended the club throughout the six weeks, and initially signs were positive for success. Social issues eased and the group involved found themselves to be in fewer negative disciplinary situations. Over time however, it became apparent the group would not be able to continue to work together as factions were starting to form. Those pupils in contravention of the behavioural contract set for them were removed from the club, but unfortunately it appears the project was too late to be able to have the lasting affect desired, and only one pupil managed to adhere to the success criteria and get football tickets. That child attended Aston Villa’s game against Chelsea. This seemed to impact on those pupils who had been removed from the group or not met the behavioural standards for gaining the tickets as a reward.

The Future – The club will be started early on in the school year in order to have a wider impact. Aston Villa ticket vouchers will continue to be used as incentive where appropriate, as football is a large, and in some cases the only, motivator for a lot of the pupils in question.

Feedback – “I feel we started too late with change 4 life. It worked really well at times and the children did enjoy the activities, but it was too late for this particular group. I think we need to shift focus term by term and use the club more effectively next year as we can all see the potential value it has”

- Debbie Brooks, PE coordinator

Who to contact for more info about this project – Chris Long, Enhanced Sports Premium Officer, Corby Oundle and Thrapston SSP, Prince William School, Oundle PE8 4BS