

Case Study: Implementing the #Bee Well Project at a Secondary School

Background

At Sale Grammar School we have the highest aspirations for everyone and work together to achieve these, acting in a way that demonstrates our collective values at all times. We strive to provide extensive opportunities for our students to engage in activities outside of the classroom and for this reason we felt it was important to engage with the #BeeWell project. The school has now been an active participant of the project since 2021. With an ongoing commitment to student well-being, we are set to include our Year 7 students in the #BeeWell survey for the first time this year. The school has also contributed to the #BeeWell project by advising other schools on effective survey implementation, participating in feedback groups to shape the survey's future, and providing testimonials about how we have utilised the data to enhance student well-being.

Delivering the #BeeWell Survey

To ensure a seamless #BeeWell survey experience, we typically schedule it after the October half-term, allowing students to settle into the new academic year. Our school accommodates 192 students per year group, organised into a six-form entry with 32 students in each. Our Skills for Life lessons, which encompass our personal development curriculum, are designated as the optimal time for students to complete the survey.

We leverage our three bookable computer suites to facilitate survey completion. In preparation, we send an introductory presentation link to form tutors to share with students during a form period the week prior to the survey. This strategy enables students to watch the introductory video, saving time during the Skills for Life lesson, where all students complete the survey simultaneously. Typically, students require about 15-20 minutes to finish the survey.

The #BeeWell Dashboard - Indicator Concerns

The first cohort to complete the #BeeWell survey was our current Year 11, who took part when they were in Year 8 a short time after their return from lockdown. Analysing the data on our #BeeWell dashboard revealed concerns with the loneliness indicator. Given that this cohort transitioned from primary to secondary school during lockdown, we suspected that this might have contributed to feelings of isolation.

To address this, we recognised the importance of fostering opportunities for students to connect and spend time together outside the classroom. We consistently shared survey results with students during year group assemblies, emphasising transparency and community engagement.

Outcomes

In response to the loneliness indicator, we focused on enhancing our extracurricular provision for the Year 11 cohort. We ensured a diverse range of activities was available, promoting participation through assemblies and form periods. Over the course of twelve months, we saw a notable increase in participation rates in extracurricular activities among this year group.

We also arranged and promoted to students from this cohort school trips, such as skiing and educational excursions related to Geography and History. For the end-of-year activity week, we incorporated more group-oriented activities, facilitating interaction among students from different form groups.

A highlight of our initiatives was organising an outdoor adventurous activity day for the entire year group. Activities such as caving, rock climbing, abseiling, and water sports were designed to promote teamwork and socialisation across the cohort. Students collaborated with peers outside their form groups, fostering new friendships and connections.

The impact of these initiatives was evident in subsequent #BeeWell surveys conducted in 2022 and 2023, which showed significant improvement in the loneliness indicator for the cohort. This positive trend underscored our commitment to addressing student well-being and enhancing their school experience.

Conclusion

The implementation of the #Bee Well project has been instrumental in identifying and addressing key areas of concern within our student population. By responding proactively to the loneliness indicator and enhancing our extracurricular offerings, we have fostered a more connected and supportive school environment. As we continue to engage in the #BeeWell project, we remain dedicated to monitoring student well-being and adapting our strategies to ensure all students thrive both academically and socially.