

TTE programme helps The Stanway School to identify risk taking pupils

Background

The Stanway School, a member of The Stanway Federation Academy Trust, is a mixed 11-16 comprehensive school near Colchester that delivers a varied PSHE curriculum to 1,100 pupils across Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

The school was keen to incorporate risk awareness into its PSHE curriculum and approached The Training Effect (TTE) to implement the Risk-Avert programme across its Year 8 classes. The Stanway School had received positive feedback about Risk-Avert from other PSHE coordinators at schools across Essex who had already engaged with TTE's services, as well as from Essex County Council.

TTE started working with The Stanway School in July 2015; the first surveys were delivered to Year 8 pupils in October 2015, and the first Year 8 programme followed in November.

Solution

As a result of the partnership, Risk-Avert was introduced to pupils across Year 8 to help them to describe the positive and negative impacts of risk-taking on their health and well-being. The programme encouraged pupils to assess and manage risks associated with personal lifestyle choices and situations, to try new ideas and face challenges safely.

TTE supported the delivery of surveys across Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 and the school also committed to a Year 9 pilot programme for Risk-Avert Healthy Relationships, which is focused on promoting knowledge and understanding about healthy relationships and intimate partner violence in adolescent relationships.

The Stanway School was keen to use the Risk-Avert programme and surveys to identify 'at risk' children, in order to inform the implementation of a strategy that would support learning and help pupils to make the right choices. In addition, the programme was intended to help young people to deal with emotional issues and improve their resilience to dealing with stress and situations that could challenge their self-confidence.

Paula Deighton, Co-ordinator of PSHE at The Stanway School, said: "The Risk-Avert programme successfully identified students that we expected to be 'risk takers'. However, it was interesting that the programme also highlighted moderate risk takers, and we were more surprised about these results. You don't always know what activity goes on behind closed doors and the ways in which some students conduct themselves, especially online.



"As a result of the programme the school has been able to identify children that need extra help that we might otherwise have been less aware of, and support strategies were put in place to assist these pupils."

Outcome

As a result of TTE's involvement, 238 pupils across Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 completed surveys and 45 pupils in Year 8 benefitted from the Risk-Avert programme, which taught them skills to help the pupils to identify and manage risk.

Paula Deighton commented: "*The school's experience with TTE has been excellent and we've benefitted from plenty of extra support and resources when needed, always with a quick turnaround. Senior staff have seen the progress resulting from the programme and we'll continue to work with TTE to deliver the programme on an ongoing basis. I would certainly recommend TTE and its programmes to other PSHE coordinators.*"

Focus groups were completed at the school as part of the independent academic evaluation of Risk-Avert conducted over the 2015/16 academic year. The focus groups at Stanway were led by Dr Jenny McWhirter who was assisted in this work by Dianne Belcher-Hackett.