Peterhead FC Community Foundation – Partner School Program Case Study

Partner Schools Programme Objective

Peterhead FC Community Foundation (PFCCF) is dedicated to creating a sustainable positive change in the community through educating in engaging and inspiring programs which focus on life skills such as teamwork, cooperation, trust, honesty, and integrity.

Fundamental to achieving that goal is our Partner Schools Program which provides an inclusive, fulfilling, and engaging experience which emphasizes inclusive participation and engaging activities to capture children's interest and support our partner school's curriculum needs.

The Partner Schools Program objective is to increase attendance, engagement, and participation for targeted children and to make them feel included, valued, and able to build critical social and emotional skills to increase confidence and help to develop positive healthy habits for life.

As well as physical exercise our partner school program also focuses on nutrition to encourage our young people to develop healthy habits and inspire them to discuss their own family's choices.

Context

Buchanhaven Primary School is located in Peterhead, currently there are 434 pupils in P1-7 across 16 classes and 56 pupils in Nursery/ELC. Head Teacher, Mrs Linda Strachan has developed with her team a curriculum that encourages all children to be respectful, ambitious, inclusive, and responsible.

Buchanhaven Primary School are regularly recognised for meeting pupil needs and providing children with a stimulating learning experience that offer breadth, relevance, challenge, and depth to learning.

Building upon the school's vision, values and aims, which align closely with the values of PFCCF, the School Program was developed with a focus on meta-skills as well as health and wellbeing to provide support to targeted pupils to equip children with the necessary skills to be successful in the future.

The Wellbeing Coach follows Aberdeenshire council policy & procedures and has completed basic & enhanced child protection training including modules on self-harm, neglect, and suicide awareness.

Wellbeing sessions and programmes

The Wellbeing Coach is timetabled to deliver 60 possible engagements per week, such as: -

- ✓ Breakfast club, encourages targeted pupils to eat a healthy breakfast, engages pupils who are not in a place to learn, provide a soft start / physical activities to prepare pupils for school day.
- ✓ Small group sessions – using football activities to build trust, resilience, encourage positive friendships, improve mood and motivation.
- ✓ Individuals in class / football sessions – working intensively with identified pupils to challenge thinking and behaviour. Provision of Alternatives to Exclusion.
- ✓ Learning support – in class support for identified pupils to motivate, improve time keeping and support them to complete learning tasks.
- ✓ After school clubs providing additional free, football activity to targeted pupils and the wider school, focusing on health & well-being, physical activity, communicating and collaboration.
- ✓ Provides one-to-one support, providing motivation and wellbeing support, building trust and a provision of Alternatives to Exclusion.

- ✓ Assist the school support team, in the fun Friday afternoon activity club, which provides pupils an experience of different activities and environments, such as boxing, forest school, campfire cooking, prison visit, sailing and personal training.
- ✓ As a Partner School, targeting classes are provided with experience days at Peterhead FC.

Feedback and Impact Measurement

Feedback from school staff demonstrates that the values and objectives of the Wellbeing Coach are understood clearly and provide a strong foundation upon which to children's development.

Feedback from pupils noted "We have lots of resources to help people learn. We have a Wellbeing Coach, not every school has one, he helps me to focus and remember to make good choices".

For each school term, key measurements of the program are evaluated such as positive behaviours, attendance, and meta skills attainment such as self-management, social intelligence and successful collaboration and improved communication.

Buchanhaven Primary School Headteacher' evaluation of the program noted that children involved with the Wellbeing Coach are more engaged and motivated with attendance and attainment improved, the program has provided moments pupils will cherish throughout their school life and beyond.

Attendance analysed for 29 pupils who work with the Wellbeing Coach for at least 45 minutes per week. attendance has improved for 45% of pupils, attendance has stayed the same for 45% of pupils.

Nearly all of the pupils whose attendance stayed the same, had almost perfect or perfect attendance. One pupil's attendance has improved by a staggering 45% and another sibling group by 32%, One pupil now attends on assembly day as she also has a session with the Wellbeing Coach.

A specific example of the impact of the Wellbeing Coach was in regards one to one support provided to a child that had suffered the bereavement. The Wellbeing Coach supported the child to understand and manage the emotions related to trauma. Staff reported the child is engaged and is sustaining positive behaviour, with a 100% attendance record since the bereavement, the support provides played a critical part in achieving outcome.

Conclusion

The Partner School Program has demonstrated success in engaging with children and provides outcomes where young people can see their own development and provides them with tools to work well as part of a team, show creativity and improve their confidence and attainment. The program has also delivered an effective alternative to exclusion with focused mentoring.

The success of the initiative has been achieved by cultivating an effective working relationship between the School Staff and the Wellbeing Coach which has provided a focused approach to deliver motivating sessions that meet the needs, interests, and aspirations of all learners.

For further information on the Partner School Program, please contact the Chairperson of PFCCF SCIO on info@pfccf.co.uk or via our website www.peterheadfccf.co.uk