



Testimonial – January 2013

Actionwork

Worle Community School has had an active working relationship with Actionwork in relation to anti-bullying work for over eight years. We are fortunate that the organisation is based in our town but more importantly, we have readily been able to access opportunities that have been offered to us by Director, Dr. Andy Hickson.

Worle Community School is a large 11-16 comprehensive school situated in Weston-super-Mare. Through projects delivered in partnership with Actionwork, the school has been able to focus on anti-bullying issues in exciting and creative ways. In 2005, the school's Dance and Drama departments took part in an Anti-Bullying roadshow open to all secondary schools in North Somerset. At this time the WCS Boy's Dance Company was performing a dance piece called 'Requiem Untold', which tells the story of a young boy facing peer pressure and being bullied. Andy Hickson was very impressed with what the Dance Company was achieving and having introduced himself to Ms Chalmers – Head of Dance, he was then invited to the school to talk about various projects he wanted the school to take part in.

Later that year, Actionwork ran a very successful anti-bullying workshop with our year 7, 8 and 9 students.

In January 2006, Andy led a peer to peer research project working with 15/16 year olds. The project, sponsored by the University of Exeter, involved peer mentoring, networking with other schools and a memorable trip to Japan. Four students and staff member, Sarah Normandale travelled to Japan with Andy Hickson for a 10 day visit, taking part in various workshops and learning about different cultures and traditions.

In November 2006, Worle Community School teamed up again with Actionwork and took part in an anti-bullying resource film – called 'Silent Scream'. The cast was partly made up of the Worle Boys' Dance Company and professional actors. The film was a huge success and was shown in schools throughout the UK.

In November 2007 the whole school became involved in Anti-Bullying week. Andy and his team ran another successful week of workshops and the Boys Dance Company were asked to open the Princess Diana National Anti-Bullying Event in London.

During April 2008 Andy organised another peer to peer mediation project, working with our year 8 students, linking up with a school in Germany to discuss various topics. In November 2009, Actionwork worked with our students during Anti-Bullying Week.

In early 2011 the school was invited to take part in the ABV4Kids and Teens project funded by the Comenius Programme. The Virtual Anti-Bullying Village was specifically created for young people, enabling them to interact with students from other countries through avatars. The project ran from 2011 to the end of 2012.



Worle Community School

Where Every Child Really Matters on a Journey to Outstanding

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Dr. Andy Hickson invited the school to become one of only two schools to represent the UK. A group of Worle students represented the school at the virtual parliament in the Virtual Anti-Bullying Village. At the outset and throughout the project, Andy ensured that he met with the staff involved and kept in close and regular contact through email or by visiting the school. This meant that any technical issues could be sorted out promptly and staff could have confidence in the process. Andy also kept in regular contact with the students involved, supporting them with workshops and encouraging them to participate in the monthly parliamentary sessions. Andy worked with the students to empower them to set up a Social Committee and supported them through the development of a presentation which was delivered by the students at the ABV Anti-Bullying Conference in November 2012.

Prior to the 2012 UK Anti-Bullying Week, a small group of GCSE Drama students worked with Actionwork to create a film called 'Bullied and Bruised' which discusses the impact of bullying on young people.

As a school we are extremely proud of the working relationship we have with Actionwork and the opportunities that have been given to our students by Dr. Andy Hickson and his team.

Jane Dickson
Director of Community
Worle Community School



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