

One day you'll make Prime Minister!

An example of an EP intervention with a young person and school

The situation

A Consultation Request Form received from a local Secondary Schools. A Year 10 girl was at risk of exclusion. Maggie was outspoken with attitude. Mum and dad had split up and Maggie did not get on with her step dad. She spoke to her teachers as if they deserved her frustrations she brought into school from home. The Educational Psychology Service Panel considered it appropriate for Maggie's information to be passed to the EP.

What happened...

The EP had a telephone consultation with Maggie's Head of Year and a separate telephone consultation with her mum. A plan for the school was agreed and some ideas were shared with mum to reduce the challenges faced at home. The EP agreed to visit the school and meet with Maggie.

What happened next...

A series of meetings with Maggie was agreed. The EP asked the Head of Year for all of Maggie's teachers to complete a Secondary Behaviour Checklist. The EP felt it was important to let Maggie tell her story but also to really listen to what she had to say. Maggie talked about her experiences and explained what was happening to her at school and at home with the key adults in her life.

After each meeting the EP would offer suggestions as to what the school could do to help Maggie. For example, she could be given the opportunity to make a positive contribution to the school to challenge her reputation amongst her peers. When the EP looked through all the teacher's completed questionnaires it became evident that in most lessons, Maggie's verbal behaviour was improving. However Maggie still had serious problems in two subjects, taught by the same teacher. When the EP explored this with Maggie. She told the EP this teacher was very rude and disrespectful to her. With her permission the EP shared these concerns with the Head teacher. The Head teacher dealt with this complaint appropriately.

The result....

Maggie has been voted in by her class mates to be in the School Council. The EP noticed she started to dress smarter and was polite when speaking to adults in school. Maggie is looking forward to going to college to study Complimentary Therapies.

Psychology Used:

Personal Construct Psychology, Cognitive Behavioural Psychology and Social Psychology



