

'Sense of humour important!' **Pupil views about teaching and learning**

An example of EPs working on a project at the school level

The situation

A local secondary school requested Educational Psychology Service (EPS) involvement to help them explore their pupils' views about teaching and learning. Two trainee educational psychologists (TEPs) on placement with the EPS, worked collaboratively on the project with the school over a 20-week period. This project was supervised by an experienced educational psychologist.

What happened...

The TEPs had several meetings with the school senior leadership team to plan and carry out the project. The first stage involved deciding the specific research questions the school wanted to answer. It was decided to gather the views of a cross-section of pupils in Year 8. At each stage of the process, school staff were involved with feeding into the next steps of the project.

What happened next...

The TEPs then tracked two pupils over the course of a morning to get a flavour of the school day and to talk to them about their experiences of teaching and learning. Following this, the TEPs planned and ran two focus groups with a sample of 16 pupils drawn from across the year group. The pupils were asked to talk about what factors impacted on their learning experiences. The information gathered was used to develop a questionnaire and this was later completed by 41 pupils.

The result

The project provided a detailed picture of the pupils' views about teaching and learning in the school. The pupils reported that having an approachable teacher with a good sense of humour, and having a suitable environment, were the most important factors for their learning. Pupils were generally happy with their level of involvement in teaching and learning, but suggested changes such as having more choice in how lessons are delivered, and teachers being more supportive.

The TEPs presented their findings to members of the leadership team in school and these generated a lot of discussion. School staff are very keen to use the information to help them plan how their pupils can have more meaningful involvement in teaching and learning.

The school staff involved gave positive feedback about the project and greatly valued the involvement of the TEPs and the Solihull Educational Psychology Service.

Psychology used

- Organisational Psychology
- Humanistic Psychology
- Solution Focused Psychology