

Pastoral Support Programme (PSP)

What is it?

A Pastoral Support Programme (PSP) is a school-based intervention that is designed to support young people who are at risk of permanent exclusion, or who are at risk of becoming disaffected through repeated fixed-term exclusion. It is part of a continuum of provision for pupils with behaviour, emotional or social difficulties. The decision to implement a PSP will be made in conjunction with the school behaviour policy, as a strategy to promote inclusion. It is recommended that the school implement a range of interventions to support behaviour, emotional or social difficulties prior to the use of a PSP.

Why would we use it?

National guidance recommends that a PSP should be considered where one or more of the following apply:

- A pupil whose behaviour is rapidly deteriorating and where previous planning to support behaviour and/ or learning has been unsuccessful.
- A pupils who has had two or more fixed term exclusions.
- A pupil who has had one fixed term exclusion of ten days or more.
- A pupil who is at risk of permanent exclusion.

If a pupil is returning from an exclusion of ten days or more it is recommended that a PSP is developed prior to the pupil returning to school. This will enable the programme to support the reintegration process once the pupil returns to school.

How does it work?

The PSP is designed to bring together views and solutions from a variety of perspectives. It is a multi-agency meeting with a focus on the needs of the pupil. It includes views of parents or carers, the pupil, the school and other services involved with the pupil. The PSP is an outcome driven plan with targets set for the pupil, the school, the family and other agencies involved in supporting change.

A PSP:

- is school based
- is time-limited
- has smart targets with practical strategies
- is overseen by a school leader e.g. Inclusion Manager, SENCo, member of the SMT
- follows a standard format so involves minimum administration
- includes the views of the young person and their family

The most successful PSPs are developed when all the agencies involved with the young person are asked to contribute to the programme. One staff member, preferably a member of the school leadership team, should be responsible for overseeing the PSP.

An integral part of a Pastoral Support Plan is the reviewing process. The reviewing process tasks place every three to four weeks and targets are amended and developed in response to pupil progress. If the PSP is not having the required impact after two reviews schools may wish to contact the Re-engagement Unit or the school Educational Psychologist for further support.

Schools that undertake work with the Re-engagement Unit and Lower Regents School will be asked to provide a PSP (or similar) as evidence of work previously undertaken with the pupil. Support from these services will include advising schools on the use of a PSP as a tool to maintain inclusion and sustain improvements in behaviour.