

## Coventry school leads the way

### **Stoke Park School and Community Technology College in Coventry leads the way in discovering how its pupils really feel about school**

Stoke Park School and Community Technology College in Coventry is raising the bar on improving student voice and attainment through an online interactive assessment service *Goal Life Skills Package*, developed by EDI. Rather than focusing purely on attainment as a way of measuring success, Stoke Park School and Community Technology College has been on an innovative and constant quest to find out what its students really think and feel about school, their work and their learning. Its findings have led not only to an increase in student motivation and performance but also to a well earned place in the top 25% of UK inner city schools for the value that it adds to its students' education.

Using the attitude and climate surveys within Goal to question pupils about their school environment and their feelings, teachers at Stoke Park have been able to gain a thorough insight into what pupils think both individually and across the whole school. As a result, the college has been able to put measures in place to help underachieving students and to intervene quickly when areas for concern have been highlighted. Encouraged to speak out openly and honestly through Goal, students now feel more at ease discussing their issues and concerns with teachers, leading to a higher engagement with both teachers and their lessons.

Through its dedication to student voice, Stoke Park has enabled a marked percentage increase in students' understanding of lessons and lesson objectives. Through the surveys, the college established that over 40% of students struggled to understand teachers' instructions. This was highlighted to teachers across the board and a concerted effort was made to improve this area. The follow up survey showed that over 86% of students thought that teachers' instructions were now clear and that they felt more supported and challenged, both inside and outside of the classroom.

For Stoke Park, education is not just about academic performance but also about personal challenge and development and individual welfare. Through Goal, the college has opened up effective lines of communication with its students, enabling them to highlight issues that may be holding them back.

Andy Fisher, Assistant Head at Stoke Park School and Community Technology College commented: "Being able to measure how an individual is feeling as well as the level of influence that parents and peers have over that individual can make a significant difference. We had one issue where one of our year 9 students was not only refusing to engage with learning but was also being extremely disruptive in class. Through the Goal climate survey, we established that although she would not respond to parents and teachers, her peers' opinions meant a great deal to her. Her teacher spoke discreetly to her peers and encouraged them to help her modify her behaviour when she was disruptive in class. This led to her realising how extreme her behaviour had been and a real improvement in her attitude."

Andy continued, “At Stoke Park School and Community Technology College, we do not believe that school is just about measuring scores and attainment. It is also about influencing our students’ attitudes and behaviours, helping them develop on a personal as well as academic level. Using the surveys within Goal to record student voice as well as assessing the students’ capabilities has enabled us to put real measures in place to improve attitudes as well as performance. We have developed a school ethos which is open and engaging, we have also enabled our teachers to be more effective in both target setting and encouraging pupil development.

Nigel Snook, Chief Executive of EDI, commented: “We are proud to support Stoke Park School and Community Technology College in the implementation of our Goal Life Skills Package. The college’s dedication to listening to its students and assessing their needs and feelings - as well as their performance - is highly commendable and we are delighted that such an innovative approach has reaped so many benefits for the college.”



Supporting learning  
and performance