

Contact Us:

Mrs Perkins, Mr Raven and Mrs Harvey can all be contacted on the school phone number;

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Thanks and expressions of support

"To the wonderful HUB team, thank you so much for all your help and guidance."

A member of staff

"Thank you both for your kindness, laughs and great compassion for your young people."

Parent and Family Support Adviser

"Thank you for helping me through times of trouble and making me happy every day. You make me laugh and I just want to say thank you."

Pupil

"Every school needs people like you who are there to support."

Parent

"Your time and effort spent getting to know not just [our child] but all of us as a family has been invaluable as we have felt supported and most importantly we have felt understood."

Parents

Swanmead Community School
Ditton Street
Ilminster, Somerset TA19 0BL



The HUB

"The HUB, a unit where specialist staff work with pupils who are experiencing difficulties with managing behaviour, is a strength of the school."

OFSTED Report, July 2014

What is the HUB?

The HUB was created to be an area in the school where children could work with HUB staff to address any social, emotional and mental health issues they are having.

HUB itself stands for 'Helping Understand Behaviour,' and this reflects the ethos behind the work done with children.

The HUB is always open during school time. Mr Raven and Mrs Harvey are based in the HUB and work very closely with Mrs Perkins, the school SENDCO.



The HUB

What work takes place in the HUB?

The majority of work is done with individual children. This can be as straight-forward as providing time to chat with a child in order to help them to understand a situation, such as a bereavement, or helping a child to work through a specific programme of support based on the emotional behaviour the child has shown in school, e.g. anger management.

The HUB is equipped with a wide selection of board games, card games and activities that are used to address specific social issues. For example, a child who finds it hard to make friends can be partnered with another child to play a game in the HUB during break or lunchtime. This would be supervised by a member of the HUB staff. A child who finds the playground a difficult place can bring a friend or two to the HUB to play games. The HUB team get to know the children and help them to adjust to the playground and school life.

“Thank you for helping me through the hard times.” **Pupil**

The HUB staff also have specific roles within the HUB. Mrs Harvey works with children who are deemed to be vulnerable; children who are absent due to long-term illness; children who are returning to school after a period of long-term illness; children in care and those who have difficulties with attendance. Mrs Harvey

manages the medical plans for pupils who require support in this area. Mrs Harvey is first aid at work-qualified. Mrs Harvey oversees the lunchtime supervisors at the school and so is able to quickly address issues that arise during that time of day. Through her work with attendance matters Mrs Harvey is in regular contact with parents in order to support them in encouraging children to maintain the highest attendance levels possible.

Mr Raven works with individual children who are deemed to have mental health, social or emotional difficulties. He is trained as an Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA). Mr Raven specialises in the area of attachment disorders. This often involves a child following an individual programme of support, but can also see a child being given the opportunity to work in a small group on projects based in or out of school. Previous projects have included model-making, bicycle maintenance, participation in sports such as football, golf and basketball. Current projects include cooking, Lego, K'Nex, latch hook, tapestry and computer games.

Support programmes such as emotional literacy, draw and talk, anger management and retracking are all used by Mr Raven. A lot of assessment work is done in the HUB in conjunction with the child's tutor or a particular class teacher or support worker. This enables an appropriate programme of support to be put in place. It also provides data that can be measured so progress can be monitored.

Mental health support is now a major part of the HUB's work. Mr Raven and Mrs Harvey have both completed the Mental Health First Aid for young people course along with many other courses that are specific to supporting children with mental health issues.

“I will never forget all the help I have had at the

HUB. I know how busy they are [but] nothing is ever too much trouble; they are always there.”

Parent

Parental involvement

The HUB is divided into two distinct areas. There is an office where paperwork is done. There is an adjoining room that is designed to hold meetings with children, parents/guardians and members of external agencies, e.g. the school nurse, educational psychologist and Parent and Family Support Adviser (PFSA) to name a few.

The HUB team also actively support the work done by specialist outside agencies such as CAMHS, the Phoenix Project and the integrated therapy service. This work is often done in school, but can also be supported when done off-site.

Parents/guardians of children who are supported by the HUB are invited to regular meetings with the HUB staff. Parents/guardians are welcome to contact the HUB staff at any time to meet and discuss relevant issues often over a hot drink and a biscuit. The HUB is designed so that staff are available for children and parents to approach. If we are unavailable it will be because we are already dealing with another family, but we will contact you as soon as we are able to.

“Mark and Debbie are kind and very caring people. Some students may never need the HUB, and that's fine, however my son has definitely needed it, and as a single mum I definitely will never forget all the help and support I've had.” **Parent**