

Southern Educational Psychology Services Conference

Seminar Abstract:

'The Effective School Questionnaire' - Using action research to facilitate a systems response to challenging behaviour

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Aim

To describe how action research methodology may assist EPs seeking to address school concerns about pupil behaviour at the whole-school level.

Content

This seminar will outline the response of an EP to wide-ranging concerns about pupil behaviour expressed by staff in an Infant school. Drawing on action research methodology, a cycle of 'plan-do-review' was initiated in school through the use of a questionnaire distributed to all teaching and classroom support staff.

The questionnaire was designed to encourage staff to reflect on issues which the school effectiveness/improvement literature suggests are of fundamental importance. Aspects of attribution theory were also incorporated to offer some insights into the extent to which individuals felt empowered to overcome perceived obstacles to their own roles in school.

Staff responses to the questionnaire showed clear agreement on the need for improvements at the whole-school level in key areas of practice. At the time of writing, negotiations between EP and school are aiming to address the issues raised in the questionnaire through whole-staff development work led by the EP.