

Type of School:

Withywood Community School is a small, 11 to 16, mixed comprehensive serving an area of considerable social deprivation on the southern edge of urban Bristol.

Learners using Plan-it:

Currently we use Plan-it as follows:

- Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils complete the Plan-it activities during PSHE curriculum lesson time.
- We use it first in Year 9 - as part of a careers module that focuses on options choices in preparation for Key Stage 4.
- This year we have also started to use Plan-it in Year 10 as part of preparation for work experience (pupils do work experience in Y11).
- Next year Plan-it will also be used in Y11 as a tool to help pupils construct their CVs. The C.V will then be submitted as coursework for the 'Preparation for Working Life' Certificate.



Models of Delivery:

The Year 9 careers unit is taught at the end of term 2. The work centres on the theme of making choices. Pupils review their choices and self-assess their strengths and weaknesses - their skills, behaviours and attitudes. Pupils are asked to think about their subjects at Key Stage 3 - what they enjoy and why?

When pupils have completed this section of work, the Connexions PA for the school talks to each PSE group describing the option choices and the process of choosing options and highlighting the support pupils will be offered.

Pupils are given the Connexions booklet, 'Work Matters', to take home and discuss with their parents/carers.

Pupils then use Plan-it.

We work with pupils over 2 computer-based sessions to ensure that each Plan-it section is completed thoroughly.

In Year 10 pupils revisit Plan-it before their introduction to work experience. Pupils again are asked to assess their skills and qualities, this time with the focus on the world of work. Pupils complete the Plan-it activities before they start finding their work experience placements - using another S-cool product - WEX on-line.

Benefits:

I have found that the use of Plan-it is central to giving Y9 pupils the opportunity to systematically review their thinking on post 14 options and to action plan for their future life in school.

With the use of Plan-it we find pupils are able to self-assess their skills and qualities both academically and socially and this enables them to make good choices and plan realistic pathways for themselves.

Pupils create a Plan-it Summary that shows their objective responses to a range of questions. Staff are able to use the pupils' own assessment of themselves to engage in constructive conversations that help the pupils improve or move on.

Using data from Plan-it:

In assessing and reporting for PSE we use the Plan-it information to meet the PSE end of Key Stage 3 statements "reflect on and evaluate their achievements and strengths and recognise their own worth" and at Key Stage 4 "assess their personal qualities, skills and achievements and use them to set future goals".

The information from Plan-it is used in discussions at SMT, to raise the profile of pupil choice in option choices and in the development of skills based courses. It gives evidence of pupil concerns and identifies points for development or improvement.

Involvement of the Connexions Personal Adviser:

The involvement of the Connexions PA's is central to our work. In Year 9, the PA talks to whole classes about options and this gives additional status to the Plan-it work.

The use of colleagues from Connexions and the use of Plan-it make the option choice unit something "different" and something pupils' value more than their "normal" work.

At Key Stage 4 pupils will all be given personal interviews with the Connexions advisor, during these interviews the PA's will access the Plan-it site and the pupils' information used as a basis for discussion.

Using Plan-it to even greater potential next year:

We are currently reviewing our use of Plan-it so that we can use it more extensively next year.

At present the use of Plan-it for planning or in academic monitoring is limited. However, for both Year 9 and 10, we do plan to expand the use of the Plan-it Summary and the targets generated from Plan-it and use these to inform and support the pastoral system.

Sally Roberts

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