



Case Study: Cedar Mount High school, Manchester

Headteacher Mr Guy Hutchence

Type of school Secondary

School category Community

Age range of pupils 11–16

Gender of pupils Mixed

Number on roll

School 799

Description of the school

This is a smaller than average secondary school serving an urban area with very high levels of social and economic challenge. The proportion of students entitled to free school meals is well above the national average. Over half the students are from a wide variety of minority ethnic backgrounds and about one third of all students have English as an additional language. There are about 45 different languages spoken by students as their first language. The number of students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, including those with statements of special educational needs, is well above average. Very large numbers of students join different year groups at times other than the start of the school year. Many of these have transferred from other schools or come from immigrant families with little or no English. The school holds the Healthy Schools Gold Award and gained the British Council International School Award in September 2006. The school moved to a newly completed building on a nearby site in September 2008.

Deputy Head Martin Dunkerley describes the impact of IRIS:

Background:

There were a number of issues we needed to address. We wanted to improve staff communication, raise morale by more visible support with behaviour issues, tackle low-level disruption and, most importantly, have good quality, current analysis to inform our planning.

We chose IRIS for this task because it was able to provide the depth and ease of analysis we needed. We also found it extremely easy to use. IRIS' superb rewards facility was also a major factor in our decision to buy.

Impact:

IRIS has had a dramatic positive effect on the whole school, it informs almost every aspect of our planning. Because incidents can be dealt with or responded to immediately via IRIS' feedback facility, staff confidence and morale have improved greatly. Staff can clearly see that they are getting support, they don't feel isolated anymore. Over the past two years:

- our fixed term exclusions are down by 59%.

- The number of students removed from lessons down by 76% and
- We have seen an 80% reduction in days lost through internal exclusions.

Overall, behaviour incidents are down by 42%, but we have seen a much greater reduction in more serious misbehaviour. From being near the top of the list, we now have next to the lowest for number of days lost (through exclusion) in Manchester.

The ability to record and analyse school rewards via IRIS has really driven the introduction of a house system into the school. There is now keen competition between the houses for credits and house leaders can count their credits with the click of a button.

IRIS makes information sharing very easy. Our community police support officer has her own remote access. This means that she can brief herself prior to meetings in school or with parents. It also allows us to keep parents and school governors more informed. For example, our governors have their own access to IRIS and the governors on the disciplinary panel are helped to make decisions by being more informed of behaviour issues.

Using the analysis:

The analysis tools on IRIS are outstanding! They are used on an hourly, daily and weekly basis by our pastoral teams. We can easily identify trends and hotspots. Information from IRIS informs our action plans and policies across the school. It is used in parents and agency meetings, SMT meetings, staff briefings and INSET.

Summary:

Overall, the incidence of low-level disruption in the classroom has been reduced by 42%, though the incidence of more serious behaviour has gone down much more than that. IRIS goes from strength to strength in this school; I can't imagine being without it now.

The support we have received from the IRIS team has been outstanding. Everyone we have dealt with has been knowledgeable and friendly and our queries have been dealt with very quickly.