

- What should schools and local authorities do to ensure the well – being off their pupils

This essay will explore the well – being of pupils within schools and local authorities, additionally it will discuss mental health issues, the barriers and the best practice to ensure the pupils wellbeing. There is a vast amount of factors related to the wellbeing of any person, if they are happy an in their home environment, happy in school, if for any reason the child is being bullied or physically abused, neglected or having to deal with substance misuse, all of the factors mentioned could cause a massive effect on everyday life, signs of a person struggling with any mental health issues are not always visible or shown effects of the person who is struggling and sometimes can cause embarrassment for the person effected by this. There are many definitions of bullying, sometimes the bully can act quite clever when they are with a gang of people making out they are fearless of fighting or saying nasty unpleasant remarks making it hard for the person being bullied to defend themselves. Break times in schools are often the target time for the bully as there is quite often no adult supervision present which enables the bully to carry out what sometimes could turn into violence. Many children who are bullied will not report it to the teachers or their parents because if the bully gets knowledge of it then more often than not the bullying will continue for longer periods of time, What should schools and local authorities do to ensure the well – being off their pupils ,talking to the teacher in the school could maybe help although in many cases it has shown that this is often not the end of the bullying.

Sources in Wales state that they want to get support off the Government to develop a plan of action to try and curb the bullying in schools and colleges as the cases of suicides and mental health is on the rise, although they are

not able to put a figure on how many deaths are caused it has proved that there is a vast increase on this subject. A lady called Sally Holland became the Children’s Commissioner for Wales and tried to find out what children’s priorities were towards bullying in schools and what they should do about it in [2017]. After listening to the decision, it was decided that rooms were set up in the schools for the victims to congregate and discuss all the problems with the teachers to try ang get to the bottom of their problems, every school should have an antibullying policy in place and should it occur it should be reported straight away and logged into a book for future use, although the majority of schools and colleges do not have the resources to keep this going in some cases finding out too late often occurs.

Poverty in families is also a problem, many parents who are unable to work and on benefits often struggle to pay for children to do the activities such as going on school trips or holidays, this can cause the children

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to feel different and it often leads the child to be disruptive both in school and at home. There is also peer pressure in schools with many children wanting the best mobile phones, the best trainers and new school uniforms, the children who do not have these things can be picked on and quite often laughed at and mocked about their parents not being able to afford it. The schools are often blamed for not keeping up the standards of the wellbeing of the children but there are not enough resources to keep up with every child individually, for the children who have parents working the school has breakfast clubs which makes sure the child is having a substantial meal every day and an after school club to take care of them until their parents finish work which costs the parents but it is seen to be safe for the children and peace of mind for the parents. Research shows that a large minority of children in the UK have low levels of wellbeing and this can have a massive effect on the child growing up, there are six priorities for this, good conditions to learn and develop fully, to respect themselves and their elders, to make sure they have enough to meet their needs, a good relationship with loving caring parents and friends who they can trust, a home where they feel safe and looked after by their parents and going to outdoor activities to mix with other children outside of the home environment, not all children are lucky enough to have this. A child's upbringing in early years of their lives has a massive reflection on their future in school and college, they need to know what is good and bad for them to get on in life and go on to have their own children in later years, they need to earn respect and be respected.

In present society there have been attempts to combat the wellbeing by people listening to the person and being allowed to voice their opinions and make decisions that effect their lives be heard and weather or not they want to be assessed on the lives even though if the authorities think they are at risk they have the right to carry out the assessment for the wellbeing of the child. All children have the right to get support they need to be kept safe, and to have the feeling of belonging. Sometimes people will not be happy with the help of social services as this can put a stigma on the family feeling like they can not cope with everyday issues and are sometimes afraid to admit this as they feel that they have failed in society, this can also cause lack of trust with in the system as it quite often fails or is investigated too late. The Welsh Government stated in [2014] that they would ensure that they would look into tackling child poverty, provide more support on childcare, improving that children have more safety and making sure that every child has a voice to speak out and be heard. The Welsh Government aims to tackle the poverty now by preventing it, helping people to go back to work where they will be able to earn money and give their children a brighter outlook in school, it will help with the education of the child and mixing with others in school without feeling left out and feeling that they are different and improving the lives of all families parent support and a health visitor to check on the wellbeing living in poverty. Welsh Government funding of 800,000 pounds was allocated to thirty three Flying Start projects across Wales and was given in [2016-17] this will support many families who are disadvantaged and struggling to make ends meet, it offers

quality childcare, of the children, this will be a massive relief to families who maybe feel that they are failing as parents, the Flying Start project will also ensure more children will live without being disadvantaged and help them to have a brighter future. Child poverty in Wales needs to be reduced as it still affects one in four children, considerable talks about this are being put into place to aim to reduce this within the education system. Over the income poverty giving people better jobs the last three years the Assembly Government has reduced opportunities, trying to give better opportunities to children from poor families by giving them access to leisure and sporting activities within the community and trying to monitor the poverty affecting the children and the parent, overcrowded housing is another problem with children having to share their bedrooms with brothers and sisters, this causing more problems for learning school work and having their own privacy causing the child to maybe misbehave or become disruptive in the classroom, sometimes affecting their school work falling behind on important subjects which could help them to have a better future.

Estyn requested from the Welsh Government for action to be taken regarding the bullying in schools in 2013-2014, it included many experiences of the children being bullied joining as a team to find out in more detail what was happening on a one on one basis and actually making the bully known or named and shamed, there are bullies who will deliberately hurt a person's feelings by belittling them in front of a crowd knowing that usually the victim will not fight back, the bully might often spread nasty gossip, name calling and sending malicious messages on mobile phones, it can more often than not become violent in the playground and in the classroom, this can leave the victim traumatised and afraid to defend themselves or telling the teacher or their parents what has happened to them. Many schools have a huge responsibility to try and tackle the bullying by supporting the victims and look into what is happening to resolve it, put an anti-bullying policy and try to let the bullies know that they are targeting them for the wellbeing of the victims. Most of the schools now have the knowledge of how to record the behaviour of the bullies and try to follow the extent of what they are doing to the victim, for the wellbeing of the children some schools try to make sure that there are supervisors around the areas at lunchtimes, breaks between lessons and at the end of the last lessons while pupils leave the school to catch buses home. Supporting pupils who are being bullied is very important, helplines are made available although as the pupils get older they feel that there is not enough help there for them. There are many schools that now that raise awareness of bullying to pupils, teachers and parents speaking about what is happening and how they can try and put an end to it. Parents and teachers also need to be protected from the bully as it is known that after a parent approaches the bully it could escalate into more harm coming to their families. Many schools train their staff on bullying and to be aware of the Welsh Government 'Respecting Others' and to have meetings with the parents to help prevent the situation getting more serious, many parents are kept in the dark

about what their children are going through in school, some children have committed suicide through the extent of the suffering they have received and this can leave a devastating effect on the family of the victim.

Bullying has a huge effect on children and adults emotional Well-Being, it can cause them to be disruptive in the classroom, and self-harming is one of the bigger issues, schools should however try to make sure that the person receiving the bullying is made aware that they are able to go to their teacher or Headmaster to talk about it as this could effect their Well-Being, many schools do not have enough funding for the necessary teachers to follow on the cases and are not able to keep every child safe and free of bullying. Children dread the day that their parents go running down to the school to see the headmaster to report what has happened as it can sometimes make the matter one hundred times worse, instead it would be much better for the child if it was sorted out in confidence, they need somebody they trust to confide in and then if it continues they would tell you about it.

Challenging bullying will in the future improve making it safer showing that the schools can help to make people understand that is unacceptable inside and outside of schools, there will always be a small number of young people who will think it is ok to bully for whatever the reason maybe as long as they know they can get away with doing it. The need for more awareness of tackling the bully and working with parents to educate them into what can be done to try and prevent it happening again and again. The bullying does not only effect the child it effects the parents, brothers and sisters and even the parents of the bully, this can cause friction in the home which also needs to be looked into, bullying can cause so much stress and sometimes it can effect the relationship between the victim and the parents, none of this is a positive subject but needs to be addressed and sorted out before something tragic happens within the family.

Conclusion

The schools need to protect the well-being of the children all ages setting up an Anti-bullying policy to show the people that it will not be tolerated and will be dealt with harsh punishment such as exclusion from lessons, the schools in Wales have a long way to go to conquer this and by getting more funding from the Government could increase and help the teachers to find out in depth what the victims are going through, speaking to the bully and try to understand why they are bullying other children, sometimes the bully has been bullied themselves which could be hard for them to admit to anybody feeling that is normal, having meetings and talks in classes to teach pupils that is wrong to bully and the severity of it making peoples lives miserable, this needs to be addressed for the Well-being of every child in our society and for children to feel safer in their school. The schools may never be able to curb all bullying but with many new rules and regulations being put into place hopefully in the very near future for the Well-being of our children a much safer and happier environment to live in.

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(Mc Donough& Braungart,2002, pp 15-16)