PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN

Approach to residential groups during COVID-19

The Mulberry Bush School has remained open throughout the COVID-19 crisis. The School has devised a modified approach of working therapeutically with much smaller groups of children and staff than it normally would. Children and staff have been divided into three groups and those groups live and work together without coming into any contact with the other groups.

This adaptation to the School’s approach followed a challenging period when 15 children were sent home due to a child displaying symptoms of the virus. This represented a significant transition for the children and the School worked hard to maintain connections with the children while they were away and to prepare them for returning to the School.

Support for children’s transitions

The School maintained regular communication with the children and their families whilst they were away. They placed a focus upon building the relationship between the home and school settings. They explored with the children what might be the same at home and at school, and what might be different, thus helping to reduce levels of anxiety or fantasy for the children about what they might return to.

An area of particular difficulty for children and their families has been the change to the holiday pattern, with children currently unable to return home for their usual holiday breaks due to the risk of cross-infection. Therefore, the School places emphasis upon frequent contact with families, through any means possible - telephone, social media, letter writing and so on.

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