



Brighton University Evaluation Report.

Academic Year 2014 - 2015.

An evaluation of Challenger Troop military-ethos programmes for school children using teachers' behaviour and social skills assessments and pupils' voices from participant feedback forms.

This paper covers the interim report for Terms 1 and 2 and the report for Terms 3 to 6.

1) Executive Summary.

- Challenger Troop works predominantly with vulnerable and disengaged young people.
- Behaviour Assessments for all school types i.e. Primary, Secondary and Special confirm significant improvements in pupils' self-control and management of behaviour, social skills, self awareness, skills for learning and approach to learning.
- The large cohort of pupils analysed in 2014/15 ensures the results achieved for improved behaviour are extremely reliable and robust.
- Behaviour Assessments identify that most pupils make outstanding improvements in being less disruptive in class and interacting more positively with peers.
- Pupils attending Pupil Referral Units were identified as most likely to have done something that made them proud of themselves and showed much higher "self reported" positive changes.
- Pupils participating in sessional "Tiger Troop" courses were totally inspired by Challenger Troop Instructors.
- Over 82% of pupils "self reported" they have changed their attitude , behaviour and working practices as a result of participating on a Challenger Troop Course.
- Over 84% of pupils undertook a challenging activity that they never thought they would be able to do.
- Over 80% of pupils identified their behaviour had changed as a result of being seriously challenged.
- More than 67% of pupils reported a greatly increased level of confidence as a result of participating on a Challenger Troop course.
- Over 62% of pupils identified that they had improved the way they live their lives as a result of attending a Challenger Troop course.
- The pupil participation "pupil voice" questionnaire identified more than half of the pupils on courses said that "improved attendance will stay with them".

2) Detailed Analysis of Pupil Behaviour.

- The vast majority of pupils participating on courses across Primary, Secondary and Special schools showed significant improvements "for the better" in their overall behaviour.



- The largest improvements in behaviour were reported in social skills, self awareness and confidence as well as self control, management of behaviour and approach to learning.
- Primary Schools: pupils showed most improvement by behaving more appropriately in the classroom environment and working better with others.
- Secondary Schools: the greatest improvements were identified as pupils advancing their behaviour in the school environment by being less disruptive, being more aware of others in group situations and accepting responsibility for their actions.
- Special Schools: Improvements recognised when pupils maintained appropriate levels of behaviour when the class routine is disrupted, coping better with group situations and by using appropriate language and gestures.

3) Detailed Analysis of Participant Feedback Forms.

- Fully completed "pupil voice" forms completed by a significant cohort of 674 pupils aged 7 to 16 years.
- Overall positive response from 96.3% of pupils who thoroughly enjoyed their experience on the various programmes.
- Over 84% of pupils identified they had undertaken activities they never thought they would be able to do.
- More than 82% of pupils said they had changed their attitude and behaviour as a result of attending a Challenger Troop course.
- Overall more than 67% of pupils "self reported" significant improvements in their general performance in the classroom.
- Over 82% of pupils reported they have done something with Challenger Troop that made them proud of themselves.
- Almost 95% of pupils said that the Awards Presentations were important for recognising their achievements with family and friends.
- Over 80% of pupils felt inspired by a fellow pupil, a teacher or Challenger Troop Instructor whilst on the course.
- In excess of 75% of pupils identified the course was very beneficial in helping them to make significant changes in their lives.
- A total of more than 89% of pupils said they would recommend the Challenger Troop course to others.
- Almost 85% of pupils said they would like to come back on to another Challenger Troop course.

In conclusion, the report from 2014-2015 along with the previous report from 2013-2014 both illustrate that Challenger Troop courses enable pupils to develop self assurance, respect, grit and resilience and life skills.

The courses offer some alternative approaches to learning, provide new opportunities, experiences and skills and provide the challenge for pupils to reach their potential in life.