

SIMS

myconcern

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Putting pupils first

Improving safeguarding

Saving time and money

Raising standards in safeguarding and keeping staff in the loop

Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof School

Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof has a catchment area that includes Ely, Fairwater and Pentrebane, areas of Cardiff that have a higher than average number of pupils that come from deprived backgrounds. According to a report from the NSPCC, children who grow up in poverty are more likely to be subject to maltreatment or abuse. Home-based issues can manifest in certain behaviours at school, or even require the school to intervene in the interests of protecting a child.

The Challenge

In common with many schools, Coed-Y-Gof was recording safeguarding concerns using a paper-based system.

Several years ago, Coed-Y-Gof had implemented a process (a "red book" for every child), which was regarded as best practice at the time. Each red book was maintained by the class teacher with staff recording concerns and observations throughout the school year.

Some of the problems with this paper-based approach were that red books were

occasionally mislaid; red books sometimes needed to be shared with other members of staff and were therefore not available when needed; or, books became very full for some children. Trying to find a specific entry in a full book wasted a lot of time.

Whilst writing in the red book was not an onerous task, it meant that the teacher or teaching assistant had to have access to the book at the time they wanted to record something. Sometimes this was not possible because the event happened away from the classroom or because the red book had been taken to another part of the school.

The Solution – MyConcern

One Team Logic's safeguarding solution, MyConcern, was the ideal solution to assist Coed-Y-Gof in recording and managing safeguarding concerns.

Headteacher, Mike Hayes, is keen to embrace new technologies and new ways of doing things in a constant drive to improve the learning environment and help all pupils achieve their best.

Primary school SIMS case study

Aim:

To reduce the risk of mislaid or damaged documentation in regards to safeguarding and providing the school with an easy-to-use solution for managing concerns.

Impact:

Using MyConcern has allowed the school to develop a more robust and reliable safeguarding strategy, meeting and exceeding the needs of their pupils.

"We have all the information at our fingertips now and are confident that we are building up a better picture. As a school, we are not forgetting anything."

Headteacher,
Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof

After seeing MyConcern for the first time, he commented, "I immediately saw how this could save us a huge amount of time and improve communication between members of staff."

MyConcern was installed at the school and integrated with SIMS, so that pupil data could be synchronised between the two systems. First, the senior leadership team were trained, and the context of how to best employ MyConcern to suit the school's needs was discussed, before the rest of the staff were introduced to the new system. MyConcern automatically builds a chronology against each pupil, so that trends and patterns can be spotted. Staff members can work together in a secure environment to manage complex and challenging cases using the in-built task management and messaging features.

Impact on Safeguarding Practices

The school has experienced many benefits:

The Senior Leadership Team can look at the school as a whole, spot patterns early on and analyse what can be done to address the issues.

Multiple staff members can be involved in a case, raising the amount of input and improving welfare standards.

Much time has been saved in searching for records – no more trawling through lots of paper to find the relevant entry.

The staff have enjoyed using the system too. Recording a concern has become so much easier and takes less time than the previous method. Teachers can get back to their core activity: teaching.

Rather than carry around an issue in their heads, staff can record the concern immediately from any device; some staff members have even recorded concerns from home, so that it is "in the system", thus ensuring valuable information does not get forgotten.

Mr Hayes summed up his experience of using MyConcern to assist with managing Coed-Y-Gof's safeguarding duties, "We are able to demonstrate within seconds that we are doing the right thing and have a robust process in place, which is fully used by the whole school.



To find out more about MyConcern, contact the SIMS team on **0800 170 1738** or email **info@capita-sims.co.uk**

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