



Circle of Friends – Year 4

What were we asked to do?

To support a child in care who is struggling with peer interactions by facilitating the set-up of a 'Circle of Friends' within school.

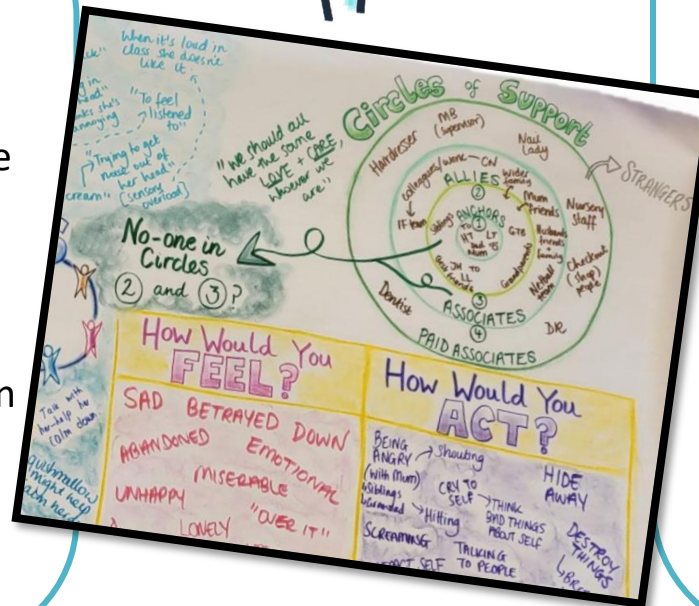
What did we do?

- Linked with Inclusive Solutions - multi-agency working to deliver the process.
- Upskilled school staff who were interested about the Circle of Friends approach through virtual training.
- Facilitated a whole-class session in-person, which elicited several volunteers for the Circle group.
- Assisted the initial Circle group session and reflection from the participating children.
- Supporting staff were given space to reflect and ask questions following the process and upon review at an agreed future date.

"I just ask my friends for help"

"She's in class more"

"More people are playing with X"



Impact

- This child, and the children who originally volunteered, continue to join the Circle, choosing to be a part of the group.
- Both staff and the children who volunteered, have noticed a reduction in what was previously deemed 'negative' behaviours.
- The other children have shared how the Circle has benefitted them also, such as feeling less worried, improvement in their own behaviour, and getting to spend time interacting with others.
- Upon review, staff have been able to consider impact and recognised possible adaptations to benefit all the group members.
- The SENCo felt empowered to start another Circle for an older year group, which is working well so far.

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