

# What Happens when Sanctions and Rewards are Removed? The Impact of a School's Move to Attachment-Friendly Practice



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Who took part



One special school for children aged 5-13 with social, emotional and mental health difficulties in North West England



Thirteen staff members



Five parents

What we did



Case study aiming to evaluate the impact of the move to attachment friendly practice at the school – practice which provides a nurturing environment to better foster appropriate behaviour.



Unstructured interviews n = 18



Analysis of school data – behaviour, attendance, attainment. Literature review

What we found

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sy favour of focused practice.

Of particular impact from conversations with staff was the sanctions and rewards as a behaviour management high warmth, high boundaries, attachment-



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Parents interviewed were overwhelmingly in favour of the school's practice – tangible difference in their children's engagement and independence compared to at previous schools. Staff also noticed a children's independence and engagement at the school change in practice.

Since the change in practice there has been:

- a significant reduction in negative behavioural incidents at school (within one year of the practice changing).
- a clear improvement in attendance (from when the changes were implemented).
- some improvement in academic attainment also (within 1-2 years of the practice changing).

What next



Share findings with other schools

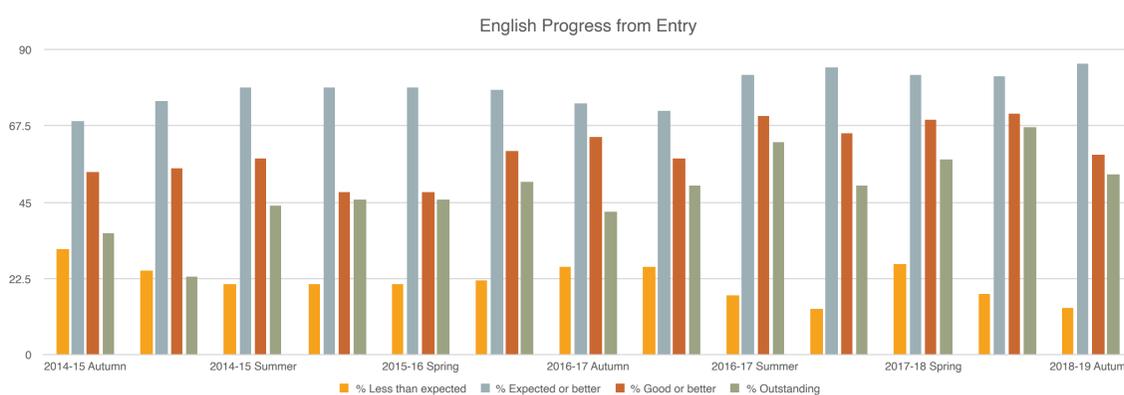
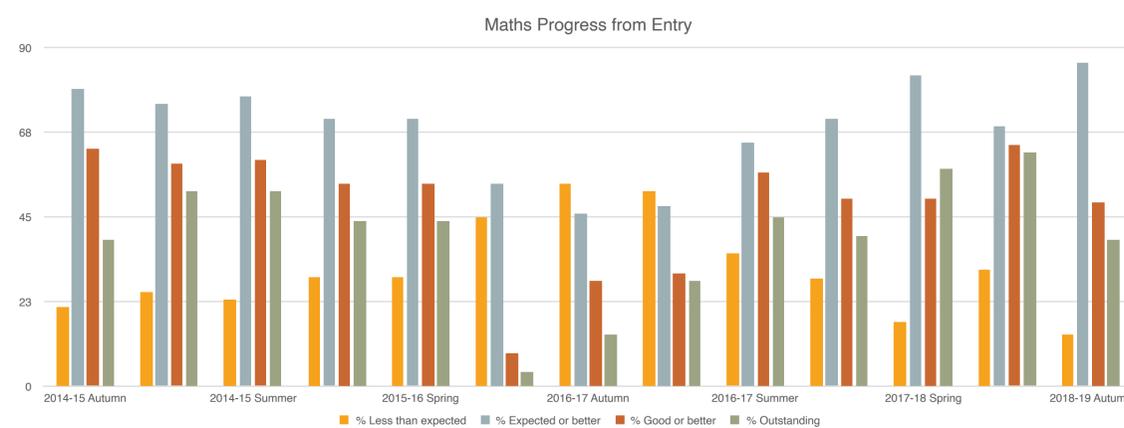
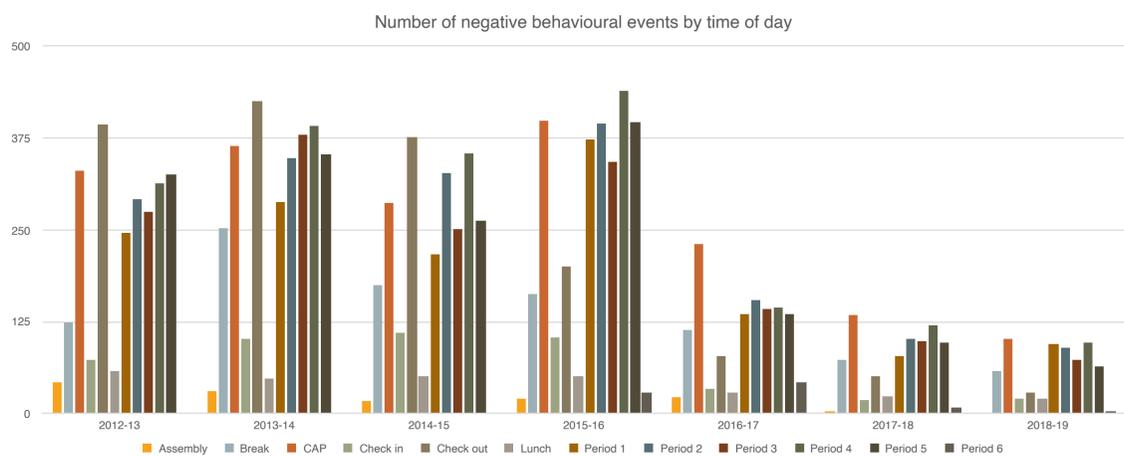
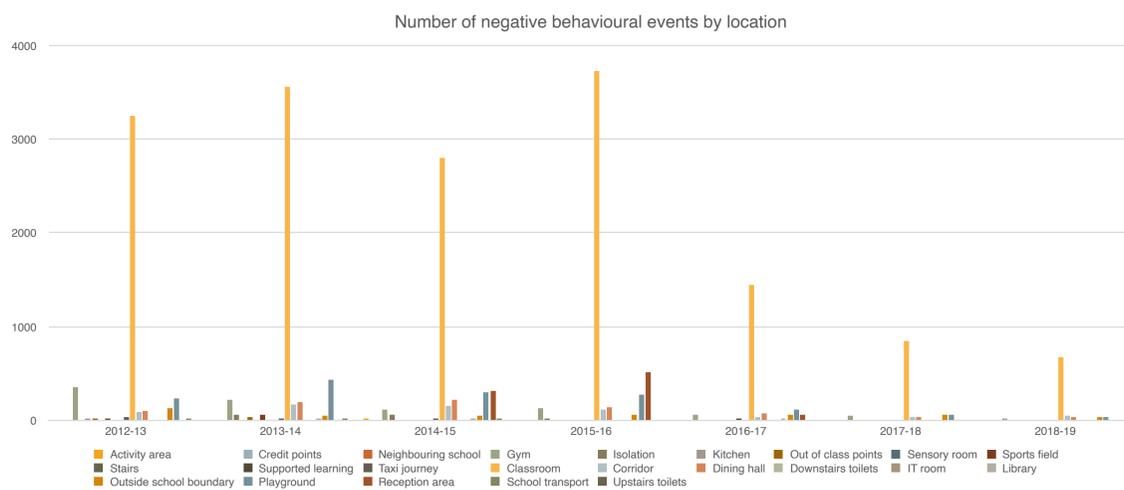
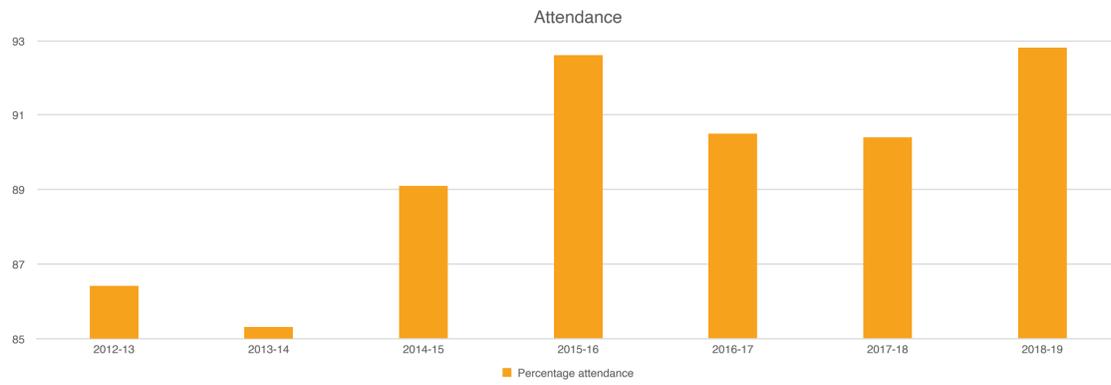


Further research is needed to see if the practice has similar results in other schools



Further research is needed into the impact on staff of following attachment-friendly practice, and the best ways of supporting them

# Data tables



The school implemented the change to attachment-friendly practice over the course of the academic year 2015-16, so the academic year 2016-17 was the first year the new practice was in place. The data shows:

- A significant reduction in negative behavioural incidents at school within one year of the practice changing.
- Clear improvement in attendance from when the changes were implemented.
- Some improvement in academic attainment also, within 1-2 years of the practice changing.