Whole Family Approach to Improving School Attendance at Pathhead Primary School

Claire McGovern, School Administrator Jillian Mellis Head Teacher Karen Robertson, Family Worker Gaynor Westwood, Family Worker





Stretch Aim: By June 2023 Pathhead Primary School Attendance will be 91.87% (Baseline 84%).

Improvement Aim (P1): By April 2023, P1 (P1A) daily attendance of class will be above 82% (Baseline: 78.07%).

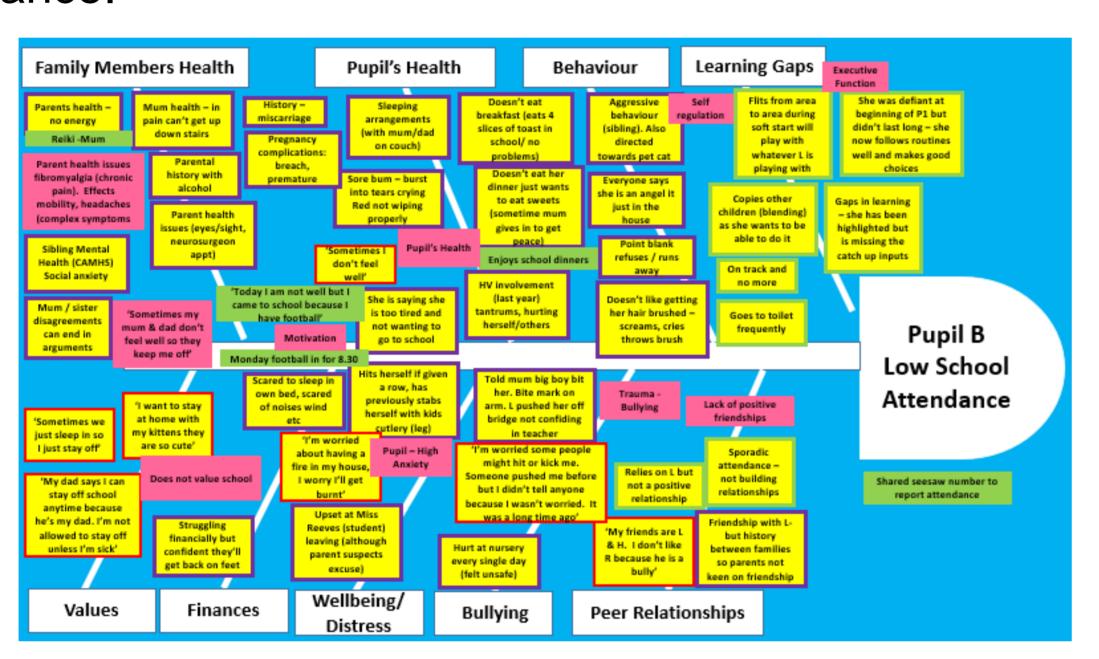
Aim Pupil A: By April 2023, pupil's % weekly attendance will be above 42% (Baseline: 31.82%).

Aim Pupil B: By April 2023, pupil's % weekly attendance will be above 75% (Baseline 69.89%).

Method

- Established an Improvement Team (Head Teacher, School Administrator and 2 family workers aligned to the school).
- Attended Fife QI Whole Family Approach to Improving School Attendance (Cohort 1).
- By analysing school attendance data we decided to focus on P1 as there were high levels of non-authorised attendance and an opportunity for improvement.
- Involved whole family in QI fishbone to understand root causes of low attendance.

Involving children & families in the process! Pupil & parent voices being front and centre!





- Bespoke support from Family Workers.
- Holistic Therapies (e.g. Reiki) for parents.
- Family Worker attending Wellbeing Meetings.
- Seesaw being used for Unauthorised messages.
- SEEMIS training for staff to ensure accuracy of data entry.

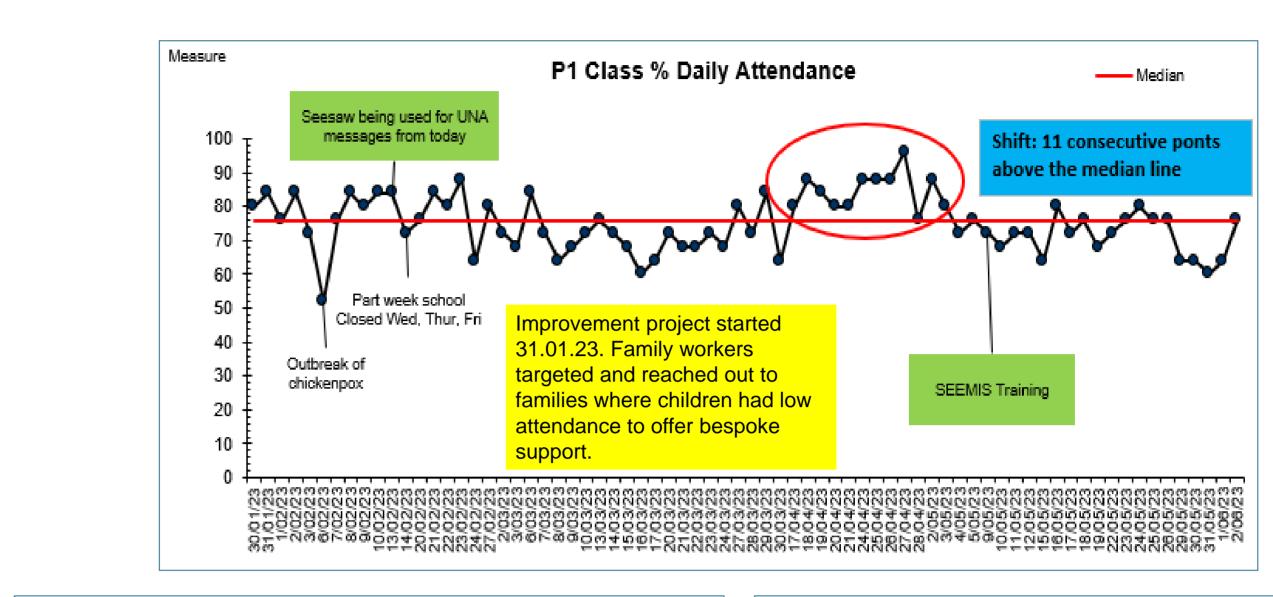
Achievements

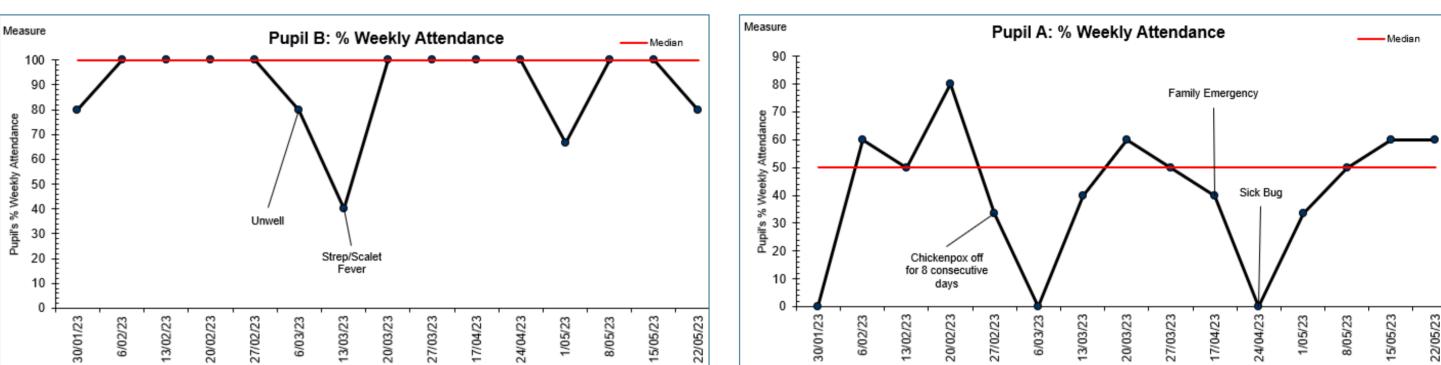
We are closely tracking our P1 class and individual children's attendance to test and learn what leads to improvements in school attendance.

P1 is now at 83.92% which exceeds the 82% stretch aim! Pupil A's attendance remains low (36.53%) but strong relationships built with parent and greater communication.

Pupil B's attendance is now 76.74% which exceeds the 75% target.

Results





Conclusions

The fishbone was a real eyeopener, I'd never opened up to anyone like that before and it was like a weight lifted off my shoulders. (Parent)

'Sometimes we sleep in so I just stay off.' (Pupil)

Parents are building good relationships with Family Workers which has helped with communication with the school. (Head Teacher)

Key Learning Points

- Having School Administrator as part of the improvement team was fundamental to being able to track class/individual pupil's school attendance.
- Family workers were able to build relationships with families and involve them in the improvement process i.e. fishbone tool supported families to open up and provided insight into root cause of low attendance and what matter most to the families in terms of change ideas.
- We recognised some staff were not entering attendance data into system accurately, hence our change ideas to provide staff training on SEEMIS.
- It would have been beneficial to have involved the P1 class teacher in the QI process.

Next steps

To continue with the QI Team and have regular meetings to monitor/discuss attendance.

