Reach Mentoring Programme

REACH provides mentoring sessions to school children, from Primary 6 to secondary school leaver, at an individual or small group level.  REACH often engages with young people with behavioural difficulties, low self-esteem, difficult home lives or self-destructive behaviour.  REACH aims to match one of their skilled volunteers to meet one-to-one with young people to be a positive role model. (They also provide Personal Development Classes.)  As they engage with schools, they help educate young people in areas of personal and social development, encouraging them to engage positively as active and global citizens. Ultimately REACH want the young people involved to become the best versions of themselves that they can be.

Our initial aim is to set up a hub within the Dungannon area.  This hub would be established to address and cater for the emotional needs of our young people by developing and enhancing levels of resilience. It is intended to target pupils in an attempt to improve attitudes and opinions about self-worth, learning and school etc.

The REACH project is a whole community effort.  It currently exists in Lurgan and is working to support all schools in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon council area.

In order for REACH to establish itself within our town we need financial backing and to date we have secured funding from the Royal School Dungannon, St. Joseph’s Grammar School Donaghmore, Drumglass High School, Dungannon Primary School, Howard Primary School, St. Patrick’s Primary School Dungannon, St. Anne’s Church of Ireland, St. Patrick’s Church Dungannon, and Vineyard Church Dungannon. These institutions have collectively pledged £11,000 per annum for a minimum of three years.

There is a fixed amount of funding (£3000 per annum for 3 years) set for business contributions in the 'Lurgan' model but the REACH working group in Dungannon want to leave it more open and accessible for local businesses to contribute. For our model we are open to any contribution from £100 per annum to £3000 (or more!). **All financial offers of help no matter how big or small will be greatly received. We just need a pledge that donations would be paid per annum over three years at least.**

It will cost £36,000 per annum to mobilise this project in our town and this will finance one full time and 1 part-time worker. Volunteers will then be recruited and trained to work as ‘mentors’ throughout the various schools within the community.

**REACH Business Presentation**

If you are interested in hearing more about this project and investing in both your local community and future workforce, please come along to the **Royal School Dungannon on Thursday 28th March at 4pm**. There will be an opportunity to hear first-hand of the valuable work REACH are currently doing and how you can play your role in making this possible within our town. **Please confirm your attendance by emailing myself at the address below.**

I look forward to meeting you.

Claire Kerr

Head of Pastoral Care

Royal School Dungannon

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