

I WISH MY TEACHER KNEW...



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The 'I Wish My Teacher Knew Jar', can be used as an opportunity to provide early intervention and support in the classroom as part of a whole school approach to children's wellbeing.

The idea behind the 'I Wish My Teacher Knew Jar' comes from a domestic violence focus group, in which primary aged children reported high likelihood of sharing worries and concerns with their teacher through a 'worry box'. From the children's feedback, the 'worry box', enabled children to share their concerns with an adult in a way that the children felt in control of and was easily accessible.

The 'I Wish My Teacher Knew Jar', also gives opportunity for children to share positive things, such as hopes, dreams and achievements, this can help build relationships, so that the child may be more comfortable approaching their teacher with their worries.

Providing space to share achievements and other positive aspects of their life, can also allow for a wider understanding of the context of the child's narrative and experiences, this can be helpful in supporting their wellbeing, offering early intervention and gives opportunity for children to express things they may not have otherwise had the chance to share. It can also help to dispel stuck narratives or roles, e.g. enabling the 'naughty child' to have their achievements acknowledged.

The 'I Wish My Teacher Knew Jar' relies on being regularly checked by the class teacher in a confidential way, and any information shared by the child being followed up appropriately. This may involve speaking directly to the child, parents and support within the school setting such as contact with the ELSA, Education Wellbeing Service and the schools Designated Safeguarding Lead.

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