

Beech Lodge School

MAP (Making Action Plans) Sessions

As the children progress through the Secondary phase of their schooling we think about their aspirations and goals for their future. We use a method called Making Action Plans (MAP) to ensure the child and their family lead this thinking.

MAP is a person centred planning tool which was developed in Canada and has been used in many countries around the world. The main part of the MAP process is a meeting. There is some activity before that to prepare for the meeting and some follow up. The child would discuss who she/he wants to join her/his MAP meeting with parents/carers and together would decide who attends.

Invitations to the meeting are sent by the child as this provides a sense of control and ownership over what is happening.

The meeting usually lasts for two hours and we hold them at Beech Lodge. The format of a MAP meeting is as follows:

- We start with the child's hopes and dreams for their future
- We spend a little time thinking about what they do not want their future to be like
- We discuss their strengths and gifts
- We then think about how we can help them achieve their dream. We will try to specify what adults will do to support the child in progressing towards his/her goals

Our Educational Psychologist Alastair Lidster leads the meetings with the support of a colleague, Graphic Artist Julie Glistner, who records the discussion visually in the form of a large graphic representation of the discussions. The child would take this picture home with her/him after the discussion. Sometimes there are follow up meetings to look at progress and to ensure the right actions are being taken.

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