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“No Blame” - A Converted Sceptic

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Julian Forsey, head teacher of a primary school, was very sceptical when he first heard about the (No Blame) Support Group Method - he tried and was convinced.

I first started using the (No Blame) Support Group Method to resolve bullying problems in the school way back in 1994. As is so often the case, it was a really difficult and persistent incident, which led me to look for a “new and better” solution, and by sheer good luck I stumbled on the (No Blame) Support Group Method. I tried it, it worked first time, and over the past seven years it has become part of the school’s culture - the way we do things.

I hadn’t really given it any thought for ages, until a month or so ago the school received a visit from a two very pleasant New Zealand teachers. They asked what the school did about bullying, and I explained. They went on to ask how many incidents occurred in school, and as I didn’t have the answer at my fingertips I looked in the record book that I keep. When I counted the entries I was very pleasantly surprised. The little table below will illustrate why!

Reported Incidents:

April ‘94 to May ‘95	10
95 – 96	10
96 – 97	7
97 – 98	15
98 – 99	2
99 – 2000	3
2000 – 01	3

Obviously the figures for one school do not, on their own, prove anything. It’s entirely possible that there is another bad year just around the corner, but my feeling is that it’s unlikely. I believe that there is a spin-off from using the (No Blame) Support Group Method; it seeps into the ethos of the school, so that the children (and staff!) become less blameful and less aggressive; children take more responsibility for their actions and they think about the effects that their words and actions have on others, and the result is a calmer, happier school.

I wonder, has anyone in another No Blame school found the same sort of thing? It would be interesting to hear from people.