

# Leigh Academies Trust Case Study

## *Transforming Unseen Pupils into Supported Learners*

Identification

Insight

### Introduction

Leigh Trust, a Birmingham-based multi-academy trust, supports a network of primary schools serving a richly diverse pupil population.

Many pupils face significant social and emotional challenges that don't always present in obvious ways.

While the Trust has a deeply embedded pastoral ethos, its leaders recognised a persistent gap: some pupils with the greatest needs were not being picked up — not because staff weren't looking, but because there wasn't a systematic way to hear every pupil's voice.

Children who were quiet, well-behaved, or high-attaining often slipped through the net. As a result, their emotional needs remained hidden until more serious concerns emerged.

Leigh Trust wanted to change that by embedding a more proactive, consistent way to identify those who may otherwise go unnoticed.

### Implementation

To tackle this, the Trust adopted BounceTogether as a central part of its wellbeing strategy. The platform was introduced as a consistent, Trust-wide tool for collecting and analysing pupil voice on mental health and emotional wellbeing.

Through validated surveys, every child was given the opportunity to share how they were feeling — not only those who had reached a crisis point, or who had already been referred for support.

By embedding these surveys across all its schools, the Trust created a baseline of emotional wellbeing data that could be reviewed systematically, rather than reactively. Leaders across Leigh Trust embraced this as a way to ensure their care extended to every pupil, including those who may not present with obvious needs.

Strategic wellbeing data has transformed our 'invisible' or 'unseen' pupils into supported individuals.

”

### Identification

The Trust quickly began to see the power of hearing from every child. Pupils who had previously remained undetected were able to disclose feelings of anxiety, isolation, or low self-worth in a way that felt safe and unpressured.

This change in visibility meant that support could be offered earlier, without waiting for issues to escalate into behavioural problems or crisis referrals.

In particular, it was possible to recognise children who may not have had a reason — or the language — to articulate their struggles directly to an adult.

By creating a consistent space for pupils to share how they were really feeling, Leigh Trust shifted its approach from reactive to preventative.

It was no longer about waiting for a child to be flagged - it was about actively finding out what each child needed, before the need became acute.

We now have a clearer picture of pupils' emotional needs, even if they're not flagged through behaviour or attendance.

”

## Insight

Before introducing BounceTogether, Leigh Trust largely relied on staff observations, behaviour tracking, and safeguarding referrals to gauge pupil wellbeing. While effective for some cases, this approach left a gap - particularly for pupils who didn't outwardly show signs of distress.

The use of structured, Trust-wide wellbeing surveys gave staff access to anonymised, real-time data that revealed emotional challenges they hadn't previously identified. Leaders across the Trust began to see a fuller picture of their pupils' lived experience — not based on assumptions, but on consistent, comparable evidence.

The insight allowed schools to move away from anecdotal responses, build strategies based on trends, and reflect more critically on where their systems were (and weren't) working.

This data has helped us challenge our assumptions about which pupils need help.

## What Leigh Trust Achieved

By regularly listening to every child, the Trust uncovered needs that might otherwise have remained hidden. It reshaped the Trust's entire strategy for care, by making emotional wellbeing visible:

- ✓ **Identification** - Pupils who were previously overlooked - often because they didn't display typical signs of distress - were identified early, allowing for timely and meaningful support.
- ✓ **Insight** - The Trust moved beyond anecdotal observation and began using structured pupil voice data to shape more informed decisions across all schools.



## Ready to Get Started?

### Run Your First Wellbeing Survey **FREE**

BounceTogether helps schools bring structure and clarity to pupil wellbeing — surfacing hidden needs, enabling smarter support, and evidencing what makes a difference.

Run your first wellbeing survey completely free as part of our trial offer.

[www.bouncetogether.co.uk](http://www.bouncetogether.co.uk)



[www.bouncetogether.co.uk](http://www.bouncetogether.co.uk)