Press release

# OfSTED: Low-level behaviour ruining classrooms and damaging children

By Richard Curtis

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Southampton, Hampshire – OfSTED have today released a report detailing how low level behaviour in classrooms is impeding learning in classrooms and risks damaging children’s lives.

The report, released on 25th September, contains feedback from nearly 3,000 inspections conducted this year, noting that whilst safety-threatening incidents were reduced, teachers feel that low-level disruption affects them frequently, particularly in secondary schools.

Support services available for schools and teachers have suffered over the last few years due to the cuts in local authority budgets. Schools can struggle to find the professional support required to increase teacher’s confidence when tackling behaviour. “Teachers can feel undermined and devalued when facing these problems, with some feeling like failures as they struggle to control their classes. They have often put in many hours of their free time to create the content of their lessons and feel frustrated by behaviour, meaning sometimes it is easy to overlook some of the classroom basics,” says Richard Curtis.

They are increasingly turning to services, like The Root Of It, set up by child behaviour expert Richard Curtis in 2013 to help schools identify the root causes of the difficulties and address them. Richard says “Teachers should have clear systems in place to nip low level behaviour in the bud and schools should have systems in place to support all of their teachers to avoid this constantly disrupting behaviour. Local authority support services for teachers requiring support have been dramatically cut over the last few years and teachers are feeling increasingly alone when facing these issues in the classroom.”

The team, who have recently been named Best New Business at the 2014 National Entrepreneurs Convention, are so concerned about this they have extended their successful email support service offered to schools, to include a national telephone line for teachers in schools to talk through how to address classroom issues.

Richard, who also works with parents as The Kid Calmer, continues on to say “Low level behaviours are not only caused by non-engagement with the planned lesson. Parents can help their children avoid this by talking to them about when to ask their teacher for help, explore ways of avoiding distractions from other students, help them to be able to complete homework independently when it’s within their ability (even if it means doing something else in the same room so they have the reassurance of your presence).”

The Root Of It provide special needs professionals to schools and run a national email and phone support line to help staff in schools meet children’s needs, plus give advice on inclusion and special needs.

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**About The Root Of It**

The Root Of It was founded in April 2013 to help children with complex needs and disabilities succeed and has recently been named Best New Business at the 2014 National Entrepreneurs Convention. Richard Curtis has brought together a team of professionals to provide a wrap-round service for schools that includes Clinical Psychology, behaviour advice, Social Work, family support work, Educational Psychology, Speech and Language Therapy, Play Therapy, Counselling and support for low attenders. Richard says “Poor behaviour is a symptom of an underlying difficulty, just like good behaviour is a symptom that a child's needs are being met. The Root Of It work as a team to address the underlying difficulties.” The Root Of It provide support to schools, families, early years settings and organisations. For more information, please visit <http://www.rootofit.com>.

**Contact for articles, comment and interviews**

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