

***An exploration of secondary school pupils' experiences of managed moves  
using a resiliency framework***

Many Local Authorities in the United Kingdom (UK) operate managed move systems as an alternative to permanent exclusion. Managed moves were introduced to offer a 'fresh start' without the stigma associated with formal exclusion. This study applied a qualitative design, using semi-structured interviews to explore the experiences of nine secondary school pupils who had been through a managed move. The data were thematically analysed using theory-driven analysis (resilience theory). The aim of the study was to explore young people's feelings and experiences throughout the managed move process, their perception of what changed after their managed move, as well as in-school and within-child factors that supported them in their new school. The purpose of the study was to explore how schools promote successful integration following a managed move.

Participants described positive changes in their behaviour, learning, wellbeing, motivation to attend school and changes to their lives outside of school. Although managed moves have been positioned as a promising alternative to exclusion, this research highlights the vulnerability experienced by young people in terms of anxiety, loss, rejection, injustice and upheaval. Themes were developed to reflect potential protective factors that were felt to support the young people after their managed move. Key themes were; relationships with staff, expectations and boundaries, teaching and learning, peer relationships and a nurturing and inclusive school ethos. Within-child factors that were seen to support change were; an internal locus of control, future ambitions, a sense of mastery and self-control. The findings highlight the importance of proactive support, particularly with regards to building relationships. Resilience may offer a useful framework to structure support for young people going through managed moves, to ensure that managed moves are effective as an intervention and a positive way forward.

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