

The Significance of Free Schools for Truant Students

— A study via interviews with graduates —

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One of the problems experienced by truant students is that the formation of human relationships becomes difficult. Therefore, in thinking about support for truant students, it is necessary to think about providing support so that relationships with people are not lost. This study explores the influence that experience at a free school had on truant students by focusing on human relationships. The data was collected through semi-structured interviews with two graduates. The results show that students trust teachers at free schools at an early stage, but that it takes time for students to become familiar with life at a free school. It is difficult to form relationships of mutual trust with people of the same age, and a free school is not only a place for a break from communal living but also a place where students can challenge themselves to be involved with other people through the support of teachers. Students can adapt to communal living after graduation. The results indicate that a free school provides students with the ability to adapt to communal living and plays the role of preventing relationships with people from being lost.