



## **Ability vs Ability Paralympic Education Case Study**

### **Study Name: Amber Valley**

#### **Quote**

Sara – a Y10 student with no previous successes in sporting activities, who had just won her team the curling game with a perfect stone amid high fives - was heard to say “incredible.”

#### **About the school**

##### **What is the context of the school?**

- The school is an area special school set in central Derbyshire. It has a very large catchment area covering most of central Derbyshire and the population of the school is largely made up of students with EBD or MLD, some with additional sensory/physical problems.

#### **The challenge**

##### **What was the issue and how was this identified?**

- Disabled sport across the partnership area - indeed for large parts of Derbyshire - is still in its infancy. This is clearly identified within the Delves School by the lack of exit routes for our disabled athletes and the lack of provision for students to take part in disabled sport outside of the school on a more recreational basis.
- With this situation inside a special school, the main concern was the level of provision within mainstream schooling for students with disabilities.
- The first stage was to audit the whole partnership secondary population to find out what facilities already existed for students with disabilities.
- The findings of the audit identified that provision within the partnership was very limited indeed. This was worrying.

#### **Meeting the challenge**

##### **What we did**

- Audited all secondary schools and special schools within the partnership.
- Realised that the level of poor provision needed to be addressed immediately to make things happen.
- Widened the numbers involved in our area sports festivals - 4 per year averaging 60 students at each festival to be increased to 6 per year with the addition of



basketball and outdoor education – last year festivals in Football (indoor & outdoor), cricket, sports hall athletics, swimming.

- Involve Rotary Clubs etc. in the provision of medals for all participants.
- Festivals still did not go far enough as they were unable to engage students who did not want to access these sporting activities. As a result, purchased equipment for boccia, indoor petanque, new age curling, table cricket, zone hockey and goal ball – all within Delves Special school.
- With transport a problem in this rural school, established within the timetable provision a special target group of students who we thought might benefit from this equipment and who were not presently accessing the sporting festivals.
- This mini multi sport club within the curriculum contains 3 boys and 5 girls (KS4), all who have profound disabilities.

## **Impact**

### **The difference this has made**

- The difference has been apparent from the first session.
- All students eagerly anticipating mini multi sport sessions.
- Attendance improved.
- Enthusiasm levels increased within the sessions.
- Two students on fringe of being excluded from school are now interested and taking a full part in the sessions.
- Skill levels have improved due to increased motivation.

### **Why it worked**

- Offering new activities in which the students had no previous history of failure.
- Activities indoors in the warmth.
- Equipment provided was of high quality and fun to use.
- Sessions now became fun based games for all to enjoy.