

Ability vs Ability Paralympic Education Case Study

Study Name: Ribston Hall

Quotes

"I've learnt so much over these past few months. It's an experience I'll never forget."

Ribston pupil

"This has been one of the most rewarding programmes I have ever been involved in. I have seen not only pupils from Special Schools, but also pupils from a mainstream school reap the benefits in a very unique fun and non-threatening inter-school event."

Hannah Wilson - SSSCo and SEN coordinator leading the programme

About the school

What is the context of the school?

- A single sex, selective school based in inner city Gloucester for years 7-11 and a mixed sixth form with 814 pupils in total.

The challenge

What was the issue and how was this identified?

- *Through discussions with pupils it was apparent that there was a lack of understanding and socialisation with other youngsters who may have a disability. Year 8 PSHE/Citizenship programme focuses on 'Empathy for Disabled people within the community' and therefore it was an easy and exciting programme to fit in alongside.*

Meeting the challenge

What we did

- SSSCo attended BPA course on using *abilityvsability* resource.
- SSSCo met with the Head of PSHE/Citizenship to share information.
- The whole of year 8 studied *Disability in Sport* using the *abilityvsability* resource as part of their Citizenship Curriculum. This was led by the subject leader.
- SSSCo trained 120 year 8 girls to assist with delivery of a sportsability festival for 150 disabled pupils from special and mainstream schools. All were trained to use adapted equipment and taught how to lead sports such as boccia, tee-ball and new age curling.
- Photographic diaries were put together to allow pupils to share thoughts and experiences of the event.
- A Paralympic day was held at Ribston for their own pupils to compete in adapted physical activities.
- Ribston pupils took part in a competition to design a logo for the 2012 London Paralympics.

Impact

The difference this has made



- Each year approximately 120 girls from Ribston School and 150 special needs pupils benefit.
- All students now appreciate nature of an inclusive society.
- Project has raised awareness of paralympic movement and recognised the achievements of disabled athletes.

Why it worked

- Dedication of SSCo and involvement of the HoD for PSHE and Citizenship.
- *abilityvsability* pack is cross-curricular resources and so can be used by any subject teacher in both secondary and primary schools as it is cross curricular resource.
- There are links to the Every Child Matters and Children First agendas.
- It is interactive pack providing a variety of resources such as questionnaires, fact sheets, sporting clips, teacher resources, links to the national curriculum and interviews with past and future paralympians.
- The only limit to the use of abilityvsability resource is the imagination of teachers and pupils.
- Sustainability - this is now an annual event, with Ribston pupils making their own links with the special schools and the SSCo working with new mainstream schools from 2008.
- Future work will be to involve other curriculum areas.