

Disability in Sport Transcript

MUSIC PLAYING

Mark George (Teacher)

In Harberton School we provide the whole Northern Ireland Curriculum and that includes P.E. So we will go through at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 but however, we do put certain things in place to ensure that they can gain full access to it.

For example, we make sure that all sports are adapted in our school for all the children to access all the sports fully. All the staff in the school have extensive experience with regards to a Special Needs Education we have training in Makaton communication and this also helps us communicate what we want from the children in the P.E. hall. In using signs that the children can understand.

As well as the Makaton we will also use visuals and we use visuals in the classroom but I would also use them in the P.E. hall with the children. And again, this just helps children who have communication difficulties with regards to following instructions, knowing exactly what you want them to do. For example, Start! Stop! You know, colours. Introduce the likes of music to engage the children.

MUSIC PLAYING

And we're running. Well done!

MUSIC PLAYING

Great dodging. Fantastic!

Most importantly we do focus on the full Northern Ireland Curriculum. We would go through Athletics, Dance, Games, Gymnastics at Key Stage 1 and then the only added to that at Key Stage 2 would be swimming.

Martin McGlade (Principal)

All children in schools should have an opportunity to participate in sport and games and physical activity and their should be no barriers to that. And I think what has happened with the CCEA materials is that they have provided an opportunity for the barriers to be overcome. Sport, P.E. participation is a learning activity. We're always focusing on overcoming barriers to learning and I think that is what the CCEA materials are doing. They have provided a means to overcoming the barriers to learning and ensuring that all children can participate in Sport.

It's giving them a lot of confidence to use apparatus and equipment in the P.E. lesson and to ensure that all of the children have an opportunity to participate in physical activity games and sport.

Mark George (Teacher)

Taking part in sport is key for all children whether you have a disability a Special Need or you don't. I think it's important that every child has access to physical education and it promotes the physical, mental and emotional well being of that child. I think the physical aspect is the most obvious. Just keeping fit in general. Learning about our body, our balance, our coordination which in particular for our children is very, very important. There's a lot of our children who have dyspraxia who do find it difficult to plan ahead if they're manoeuvring through a room for example.

With regards to the mental aspect, again, just as an important as the physical. Huge benefits there. They can help with learning within the classroom itself. Even though we're in the P.E. hall because when we go back to the classroom after the children have had a chance to run around particularly some children who have difficulties sitting still in a chair for several hours throughout the day. This gives an opportunity for them to get up and run around the hall and release a wee bit of energy and it's also an area where a lot of our children can experience the feeling of success and achievement.

There's children in our school who would find it difficult with regards to literacy and numeracy and they have great struggles there but, in the P.E. hall they excel in certain games and we absolutely love the fact that we can really celebrate that with them and make a huge deal of their achievements in P.E.

With regards to emotional, I think the main thing is when they're in here I want them to have fun. There is still going to be structure in place but I'm going to make sure it's a fun learning environment for our children.

A lot of our children would have difficulty taking part in the full sport itself. Therefore, we would adapt the games slightly. So that they can still take part in elements of the sport and develop the skills needed for that sport for example, in basketball, we would start by using balloons. Throwing and catching balloons and then we'd progress on to small balls and then move on to the actual basketballs. And just this sort of steady progression allows for our children to gain those basic skills needed before moving on to the next stage and then before even putting it into the actual game itself. And we find that this steady progression has really helped our children.

WHISTLE BLOWS 'Freeze'.