

VALE ROYAL SCHOOL SPORT PARTNERSHIP, CHESHIRE



Event description

Vale Royal's School Games Day formed part of a week-long celebration of school sport. Focused on inclusive and adapted sports, schools were invited to select young people with a disability or sensory impairment who may have restricted access to competitive opportunities. They formed teams who received coaching in several different sporting activities before having the chance to try out their newly acquired skills against each other. Prizes were awarded to the team that performed best throughout the day, as well as to individuals who reflected the Spirit of the Games Values.

Impact

Ways in which the event:

Linked into and built upon the school curriculum

Activities and fixtures in each sport were structured like a mini-lesson, with warm-ups and cool-downs, skills-acquisition sections and the chance to compete. Individual awards were related to citizenship themes being promoted in school.

Acted as a celebration and culmination of year-round intra-school competition

In the run-up to the School Games Day, Vale Royal held a number of stand-alone inter-school competitions (Level 2), including a boccia festival, and a TOP Sportsability course where teachers learnt about a variety of disciplines and tried out specialist equipment. Staff members then ran these activities as part of their intra-school competition programme before placing their students against other schools in the School Games Day.

Enabled young people to play a leading, planning or organising role

The event was supported by 20 sports leaders and three Young Ambassadors. The Ambassadors were involved in the planning group that brought together the whole programme and had input in preparing and delivering the School Games Day itself. Because of the specific needs of the participants it was felt that a high ratio of sports leaders to students would prove beneficial when it came to undertaking team managers roles, and when leading and officiating competitions. There was also a panel of sports leaders to judge the individual awards.

Engaged parents

Vale Royal was keen to involve parents as much as possible in the planning of the programme. Many parents came to spectate and were given explanatory guides to the different activities and the School Games as a whole, thus encouraging further parental engagement. Parent sessions were also integrated into the training sports leaders and Young Ambassadors received.

Tips for schools planning similar events

- Work with a Project Ability school, they can provide invaluable support with any gaps in knowledge and help you plan a better, more inclusive and challenging event
- Think about the 'nice to haves', such as publicity, medals, individual awards, music and atmosphere, and include them in your planning. They can make all the difference to the overall experience.

