

Somerset County Sport Partnership The effectiveness and impact of Multi-skill Clubs

“ It is a wonderful opportunity for all the children from Birchfield to experience an exciting variety of activities and to share these with children with a range of abilities.

We feel privileged to be involved! ”

Headteacher



What we did:

Somerset County Sport Partnership, known locally as Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership (SASP), wanted to extend its extra-curricular coaching and decided to set-up an all year round Multi-skill Club, building on its summer athletics programme.

A variety of partners helped establish the club: Fiveways Special School, providing the time of an inclusion officer; SASP, providing support, coaches and funding; South East Somerset SSP and Sedgemoor Sports Alliance, both providing PDM time and funding; and the Step into Sport project, providing volunteer coaches.

The club provides a range of co-ordination, agility and balance activities

for young disabled people aged 8 to 10 years in mainstream and special primary schools.

The club was established at Birchfield School, a mainstream site, running on a Friday after school, with pupils from Fiveways Special School brought across by their school support staff.

Fiveways Special School also has its own dedicated club on a Thursday after school which is used to help pupils gain confidence before they progress to the Multi-skill Club. The Fiveways club is also accessible for disabled pupils who may not be able to attend the inclusive club because of the nature of their support needs. A lunchtime club is also held once a

week for younger children who would not manage a longer day.

In addition, during the summer holidays three separate camps were run on three sites across Somerset (one in each SSP) for five hours each day. They were open to all children with additional needs and the range of activities on offer, though mainly multi-skill, also included trampolining and team games. Many of the children brought along their brothers and sisters and in total 123 children attended.



Somerset County Sport Partnership The effectiveness and impact of Multi-skill Clubs



The difference it made:

SASP is now working with 70 pupils across the four schools, 36 of whom have varying disabilities. These 36 pupils are now accessing at least two hours of organised extra-curricular school sport each week.

The success of the original club has led to more being developed across Somerset, offering further opportunities for pupils with disabilities in both school and community settings. New clubs include a weekly inclusion club at St Georges RC Primary School, Taunton and two lunchtime clubs for young children with high support needs at Penrose School, Bridgewater.

Where participant ability and club size permit, there are plans to develop

competitive opportunities for pupils.

There is a demand for this type of activity from the respite centres who work with these pupils and it is hoped this can be developed in the future.

Parents and children have requested repeat camps in future holidays!

It worked because:

Trust has been established over time between the schools, SSPs and SASP.

SASP provided a dedicated officer/senior coach to lead on all activities for children and adults with varying abilities.

SASP and the SSP are the main providers of funding for facilities and coaches.

SASP supports staff development through training courses.

Coaches liaise with parents and staff to ensure that the clubs are meeting pupils' needs and having a positive impact on their development in school and the wider community.

Coaches regularly introduce new equipment, ideas and activities, ensuring the pupils have a wide variety of experiences and preventing the clubs from becoming stagnant.