

// Visually Impaired Awareness Workshop Opens Children's Eyes to Disability

Marshgate Primary School approached Motive8 to deliver a one hour workshop on visual impairment for Years 1-6 with adaptations for each year group. This arose as fulfilment of their 'Equal Opportunities Week', which focused on interaction with people with disabilities.

The workshop involved both conversational and physical sessions, with the Motive8 coach using a combination of informative and interactive tasks. These included detail on the Paralympics and using sensory aids to engage and educate the children on the implications of being visually impaired.

Various activities and sports followed, highlighting the adjustment required for playing sport with limited vision, including awareness of the spatial element and communication skills.

The key skills taught, in fun games such as 'Goalball', enabled children to gain a better understanding of the sport-related difficulties faced by those with disability; it also improved co-ordination as the children turned to their other senses to compensate for their improvised loss of sight.

The course can be utilised by schools to help reduce bullying and encourage friendship building.

"The visually impaired workshops were fantastic as part of our disability equality week," announced Katie Bentham, Deputy Head of Marshgate Primary School. "It gave the children a chance of playing a new sport, whilst learning to use different senses."

The workshop, which meets National Curriculum, can be delivered as individual class sessions or a half day course, with the children playing communication-based games alongside more technical sports.

"All the children involved had tremendous fun; Marshgate Primary School would like to thank the **motive8** team for all their hard work with the children," commented Katie. "The workshop was a real success and we look forward to working with the company again in the future."

For further information on services the motive8 Schools Team can provide, visit www.m8group.net, call 0800 028 0198 or email us on info@m8group.net.