

Case study: cascade responsibility

Educate, inspire and give settings responsibility to cascade knowledge and deliver events within their own settings in order to ensure a sustainable model.

Background

Mowbray Special School led this innovation project for North Yorkshire, running it for the North Yorks Inclusive Sports Partnership which comprises special schools, pupil referral units, residential behavioural schools and hospital schools across a large and rural area.

Six settings in the region were invited to participate: five pupil referral units (PRUs) and one social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) residential school.

The value of anticipation

Key to this project was to educate staff and the school in each setting about available opportunities and to directly address barriers to participation. Fran, the Inclusion Lead liaised with each setting directly, to explore their concerns and to share details of activities designed to support young people with behavioural difficulties. These included an RAF Fitness Day, Football and Badminton Day and a Tchoukball event.

We've advocated small numbers: told them that two pupils is fine and reiterated that that's what other settings are doing.



BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION

- Low awareness of events due to staff turnover
- Low level of repeat student participation
- Concerns re. required resource
- Lack of staff confidence taking young people off site
- Restrictive interpretation of 'teams'
- Lack of benefit understanding.

We've emphasised through story-telling the benefits to a young person.



Many of the staff have come from mainstream settings where bringing two pupils to an event would not be possible.



Programme delivery

The RAF Fitness day had a significant impact on participating students. Forty-four young people attended from six settings including two PRUs and four schools for students with moderate learning difficulties. Young people attending knew a lot about the base and were highly engaged: many have parents in the services and view the military as a potential exit route after school. RAF staff running the day proved excellent role models and strong leaders who sustained motivation and interest throughout.

A separate event incentivised young people to try a new sport (badminton) with the promise of a subsequent game of football.

Key to sustainability



Relevance to young people's interests and contexts.



Involve staff as role models.



Unfamiliar, accessible activities for parity.



Give young people a chance to succeed.



Enable students to represent their school in small numbers.



Give schools responsibility for working with other settings.



Limit social interaction: be realistic about what young people can achieve together.



Encourage inter-school competitions.

The outcome will come at the end of the year. Instruction to the partnership is to set up inter school competitions between themselves. I've asked them all to take responsibility.

