

Event description

Coopers' Coborn invited Year 5 and 6 students from neighbouring primary schools to take part in a School Games Day on its site. The participants were divided into six groups, representing the colours of the six Spirit of the Games Values, before taking part in activities such as the continuous torch relay, sitting volleyball, goalball, rowing, cheerleading and singing. The day, which was run by Year 9 and 12 students, culminated in the participants giving a cultural performance and taking part in a flag parade.

Impact

Ways in which the event:

Linked into and built upon the school curriculum

Coopers' Coborn used National Governing Body of Sport competition formats (www.yourschoolgames.com/sports) from the School Games pack to show how different activities could be integrated into intra-school competition. It also tried to demonstrate how easy it is to add value to a sporting event by introducing a cultural display and creating supporting roles for photographers and reporters.

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

Coopers' Coborn has been encouraging primary schools to make more of intra-school competition by linking their activities into the intra-school (Level 1) School Games resources. One of the reasons for hosting the event was to highlight the ease of organising a day where year-round activities can culminate in a true celebration of sport and culture.

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

By hosting the School Games Day, Coopers' Coborn demonstrated the ability of young people to run a successful event. It inspired the students in a number of ways, including taking a group to the Olympic Park for the Sainsbury's School Games finals, tasking them with participating in and watching as many of the activities as possible and asking them to come up with ideas for a day of celebration for primary-level young people.

This led to the production of a step-by-step manual of duties, with Year 9 students given the responsibility of designing posters, invitations and programmes and Year 12 students tasked with visiting primary schools and getting the young people excited about the event. Activities included helping youngsters make bunting and School Games flags, and training them to be reporters and photographers.

Year 12 students were also allowed to decide how they would like to run a School Games Day. To give them the necessary experience and confidence, they assisted in the running of goalball and sitting volleyball in the PE lessons held during National School Sport Week (NSSW) celebrations.

On the day itself, all of the jobs, including meeting and greeting, activity management, group leadership, timekeeping, stage management and supervision of reporters and photographers, were carried out by the young people, giving them a true feeling of event ownership.

Tips for schools planning similar events

- Set clear aims and objectives
- Compile a step-by-step guide for students – allowing them to put it into practice
- Keep regular checks on progress
- Encourage teamwork by holding meetings where all the students come together
- Invite local primary schools to participate – it can be an invaluable transition opportunity
- Invite parents
- Create sources of revenue by selling programmes and refreshments to attendees.