



# CASE STUDY

Byker Primary School

## BACKGROUND

Byker Primary School is located in the east end of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The school accommodates children from a range of different cultures and backgrounds. The school strives to provide a varied and creative approach to learning, where children learn to express themselves and have fun.

## TRAINING

Joe (Disney inspired Shooting Stars programme lead) first became aware of the programme just before the Covid-19 pandemic through his Barclays Girl's Football School Partnerships by England Football strategic lead. Joe attended the session, which focussed on active literacy and how storytelling can be used to get young people active.



***"Prior to attending this course, we found that majority of children engaging in football activities were predominantly boys. As a result of this we decided to create more girls footballing activities during break/lunch times as well as during extra-curricular activities." Joe Danquah, school lead***

## DELIVERY

Following the training, the school were operating in smaller sized groups because of the pandemic, and this is where Joe first felt that the programme came into its own:

***"The programme fit in well (with the impact of the pandemic) because there was a lot of equipment, which meant you could adapt it to be minimal contact, and the kids loved the stories. Our year 2's were learning about superheroes so we did Incredibles, and I have never seen kids so engaged in a lesson or club."***  
Joe Danquah, school lead

Joe was quick to realise that if the programme can have such an impact during a period of difficulty, then why not roll it out on a larger scale. The school now deliver regular break, lunchtime and extra-curricular footballing activities with girls across Y3 to Y6 participate in. The after-school club now regularly has 30 girls in attendance.

Joe believes having two members of staff, one who is female, leading Disney inspired Shooting Stars has played a key role in driving the programme in school:

***"The way I look at it, is Emiline (Disney inspired Shooting Stars co-lead) can have a bigger impact or make a difference more with the girls than me. What she has done with the girls I haven't managed in 7 years!"***  
Joe Danquah, school lead



# ★ ★ **SUCSESSES**

1) The school has girls throughout KS1 and KS2 that now love playing football.

*'It is all down to the Disney inspired Shooting Stars programme and the use of fun characters, which the girls have really taken too.'*  
**Joe Danquah, school lead**

2) The school have taken part in various girls' football leagues, competitions, and festivals throughout the academic school year.

3) The school advertise and encourage their children to attend girls football clubs in the area such as Newcastle East End girls. In doing so, they have created a clear pathway for girls of all abilities to engage in and progress in at their own rate, whilst being in a positive environment.

4) The school have participated in Disney Shooting Stars Inclusion Festival, which allowed children with a range of SEND needs to come together and engage in fun, challenging football activities.

*"This was a real positive introduction to football as it encouraged young girls to learn and love the game but also allowed them to play it in a competitive environment."*  
**Joe Danquah, school lead**

## **IMPACT ON GIRLS AT BYKER PRIMARY:**

Disney inspired Shooting Stars has had a significant impact on girls' experience of football at Byker Primary School. The programme has improved their individual development as well as their physical activity levels.

- 100%** I have enjoyed taking part in the programme
- 100%** The programme has helped me to be better at listening to my classmates and teachers
- 97%** I feel more confident as a result of taking part in the programme
- 97%** The programme has helped me work better as a team with my friends and classmates

- 94%** Disney inspired Shooting Stars has helped me to be better at speaking to my classmates and teachers
- 94%** I want to do more physical activity as a result of taking part in the programme
- 94%** I do more physical activity as a result of taking part in the programme



## **VIEWS OF GIRLS ENGAGED IN THE PROGRAMME:**

*"I'm carrying on with my dream, even when someone says I can't do it, I know that I can inside head. My dream is to be a footballer... I've always wanted to do it all my life."* Participant

*"Some of them are different ages, some of them are really fun to play with, and some of them are in my class. It's just really fun to play with other people."* Participant

*"The sessions are really good and fun, and they can teach you to get better at football."* Participant



# CASE STUDY

Veritas Primary Academy



## BACKGROUND

Veritas Primary Academy is situated in Stafford, as a school with 25% of students from military homes there is a lot of fluctuation with student numbers and so teachers are keen on involving students in different opportunities and experiencing variety.

Kelly is the PE teacher at Veritas and has the privilege of teaching everyone in the school. She recently started playing football herself and noticed how few girls played at school and wanted to change that. When the offer of the Disney Inspired Shooting Stars programme came to her attention via Susie Stinton, her Barclays Girl' Football School Partnerships by England Football strategic lead, it was a no brainer.



*"I'm very much of the opinion that sport should be for all and you should be able to try anything."*

## TRAINING

Kelly attended the training in person and has been on additional CPD courses since which, due to COVID were ran virtually online. Kelly was very positive about the training, saying it made her feel prepared to deliver the sessions when she went back to school. She felt confident about delivering the sessions with plenty of ideas which had been worked through at the training and with a strong working relationship with Susie, she knew she could count on her for any questions she may have.

*"Definitely felt really confident going into it. What they talked about came through with the literature. Very easy to follow...I thought yes, I did that. I enjoyed that. I can see how that would work with girls that are shy and a bit unsure...I felt I could fit it into what I was doing in my lessons".*

## RESOURCES

The resources provided as part of the training were seen as really useful for teachers and staff delivering the sessions and without them they may not have the same buzz for the after-school club.

Initially, in order to recruit the girls Kelly put posters on doors around the school as well as speaking directly to specific children. The posters made the young people think it was a movie club at first which enticed them. Kelly found the Disney aspect of the programme really helps to draw the pupils' attention, even if they haven't seen the film, they love that it was about characters.

*"It was really good because it's really eye catching, the children recognize it straight away. It's a brand that everyone knows and all the different ones that they've used are really relatable for the children."*

In addition, the equipment and resources used to help deliver the club are well used. The children participating in the sessions love the equipment, with the bibs and booklets in particular making them feel very special.

*"They like the ownership....and it makes them feel like they are part of a real club... it seems different because it is in that high-quality sort of glossy booklet."*

## IMPACT

Initially Kelly introduced the programme as a nurture group for quieter girls within the school to attend at lunchtimes with the storytelling resources. Since then, the programme has developed and is now run as a girls football after school club. Kelly has ensured as many of the girls as possible have had the opportunity to participate and ran separate clubs for different year groups.

Kelly ensures the focus is on enjoyment and making sure the girls are having fun which has helped to make the programme successful. She says one of the biggest impacts has been the "level of engagement and smiles on the girls faces. The girls enjoy it." It's clear the programme has developed the girls confidence and skills as well as encouraged them to increase their activity and not just in football.

*"I just think it's a really good programme. I'm quite an ambassador for it. I'll recommend it to other people as I think it's a really good way to get girls into playing football and going about it in the right way, a sort of soft way for those children that haven't played it before ... just the nurturing side as well."*

*"When they see other opportunities, they are keen to have a go and participate, they are carrying it with them. They have that positive experience and then they are willing to give other things a go – that has been the biggest thing for us."*

The students were very complimentary about the programme, citing the fun, engaging delivery, use of Disney characters and stories and getting to play matches as their favourite. In addition, the girls are more active as a result of the sessions, have developed their skills and made new friends either from the after-school club or attending external clubs.

*"Met new people from different schools."*

*"Making new friends with other people that went there."*

*"Listening and speaking skills have improved."*

*"Develop skills, girls only, could take part with our friends."*

The benefits of the programme can be seen from around the school, in particular the headteacher has noticed the impact on the girl's participation levels. She says the programme "Has encouraged a wider range of girls to take part and be active and they don't really necessarily equate what they are doing without having fun – it's broadened the amount of people who want to be involved. From the 1st to the 2nd club there was a lot more numbers and a lot more children wanting to take part – that has been the biggest impact."

*"(I'm) more active and (play) more sport. Before we started the club it was just boys playing matches and now there is a few of us that play with them – we start our own matches. Encouraged us to play football more than other sports – we used to play football the least." **Disney inspired Shooting Stars Participant***

# PUPIL SPOTLIGHT

An example of impact

## LEAH CASE STUDY

Leah is a school pupil at Veritas Primary Academy who was very anxious and shy prior to getting involved in football and the club at the school. Various initiatives had been used with Leah including picture cards in lessons to help her explain how she was feeling and help her communicate. However, she now has much more confidence, attending the club regularly and joining an external club and the school and her family have put this change in Leah down in part to her discovering her love of football.



*"It's weird to see someone who is so shy to come out and see her start in a club and see that pathway for her – it's so rewarding."*

*"Leah has definitely improved in confidence – football has brought it out...finding something that she enjoys and seeing that confidence is amazing"*

To get her to come along to the club Kelly talked about the characters and spoke to her mum.



*"The toy story part got her in, but she is actually a very good footballer as well, she's a natural, she's got that skill."*



Why she attends the club:



*"I like football because it's really fun to play and my Dad really likes it and me and my sister play it all time."*

