



The Disability North School Fundraising Initiative

Introduction

Disability North collaborates with many community partners. Through discussion with teachers – and a successful pilot scheme - we have identified an opportunity to work with local schools in a way that will benefit them, their pupils and our charity. Our project – FundED – represents a holistic and concerted approach to supporting the charitable work of schools.

Disability North - Who We Are

Disability North is a user-led charity based in Newcastle upon Tyne promoting social inclusion, independence and choice for disabled people, carers, and their support networks. Established in 1985, we currently employ 20 people and deliver comprehensive services across the North East and Cumbria. Our team provide free impartial information and advice on: equipment and activities for independent living; welfare benefits; Direct Payments; and Personal Health Budgets, along with a payroll service for those who employ their own Personal Assistants. We also provide support in relation to many other aspects of disability and signpost to other organisations who can help. In addition, we develop and deliver training packages, talks and workshops to professionals and community groups, working in all sectors, across the region.

FundED - Our Objectives

The Disability North FundED initiative takes a simple yet ambitious approach. We use our knowledge and expertise to achieve the following aims:

- To promote a positive, informed understanding of disability issues in society.
- To provide a fun context in which pupils can build CV enhancing project management skills, acquire business acumen, and develop entrepreneurial talent, whilst learning to work collaboratively and inclusively.
- To raise money for Disability North.
- To build long-lasting, mutually beneficial relationships between Disability North and local schools.

FundED - How It Works

Disability North will visit your school to deliver an 'Awareness Raising' session. These sessions are a key feature of FundED. They can be developed in collaboration with each individual school and the general themes will be tailored to the specific audience. In the sessions we will work with pupils to talk about 'difference' and help them to develop an age-appropriate understanding of disability, whilst promoting active inclusion and responsible citizenship amongst the adults of tomorrow.

Disability North will then provide teams of pupils in each school with seed money of £50 per team. Under the guidance of Disability North and school staff, each team of pupils will use this fund – over a four-week period – to develop and execute a fundraising idea to raise money for Disability North. At the end of the period, Disability North will host an awards ceremony to celebrate and ‘certificate’ the achievements of the school; including awards for ‘originality’, ‘ethical business practice’ and ‘understanding of disability issues’ as well as for ‘fundraising’.

We believe that our ‘Awareness Raising’ sessions - and supporting pupils to develop and commit to an ethical business/fund-raising idea – would fit well with the Citizenship or PHSE elements of the curriculum. If appropriate, this fundraising challenge can be incorporated into the delivery of qualifications such as GCSE or A Level Business Studies.

We appreciate that all schools are different. We are therefore flexible in terms of how the ‘Awareness Raising’ sessions and fundraising events might work. We look forward to working with participating schools to ensure that FundED is a beneficial, bespoke experience for each institution.

What Makes FundED Different

We believe that FundED takes a very different approach to other charitable fundraising initiatives currently taking place within schools. Not only do we support pupils to raise money for a local charity whilst raising awareness of an important social issue, the initiative also encourages pupils’ personal development. Pupils can document their participation in FundED, and the skills they developed and demonstrated throughout, on CVs and applications for further education/employment.

Benefits for the Schools & Pupils Involved

National and regional statistics – as well as reports from our service users – point to an alarming rise in disability discrimination and hate crime over the last two years. In times of austerity and crisis, we believe that participation in the FundED scheme encourages the adults of tomorrow to actively engage with contemporary issues of disability and discrimination, inspiring them to advocate for a more inclusive and just society. FundED promotes creative thinking and active learning, providing a fun context in which pupils can practically apply the knowledge acquired through education, develop the skills to work collaboratively and inclusively, whilst enhancing their CVs. This is a unique opportunity to positively promote local schools and their contribution to the local community.

For further information please contact our Service Development & Involvement Manager at Disability North, Carlene Carter on **0191 284 0480** or email carlenecarter@disabilitynorth.org.uk