

PROJECT - Safer sport in school

THE PRIORY SPECIAL SCHOOL, NEVILLE AVENUE, SPALDING

The Priory School in Spalding effectively meets the needs of pupils aged 11 to 16, all of whom have moderate learning difficulties and many of whom have Autistic Spectrum Disorder and Social Communication Difficulties.

The playground occupies 130 children with special needs and only has some old markings and two free standing netball hoops.

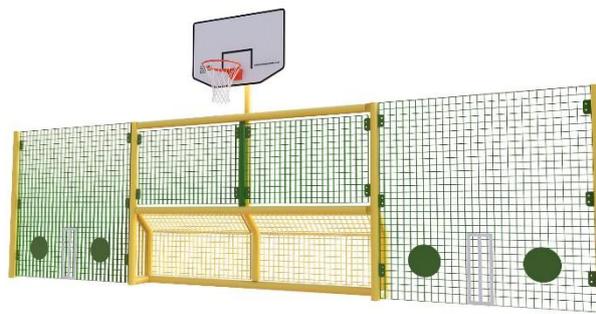
Daily we have incidents with children wanting to play ball games whilst others prefer to play other games, this cross over causes a lot of issues which result in either injury or unhappy pupils.

The problem is highlighted when our field is out of bounds in wet weather and we're unable to run football club; this has a negative impact on our pupils who do not like or understand change.

A year ago we applied to the National Lottery for funding towards a specific, contained team ball play area allowing pupils to play football, netball and basketball safely together.

Children wishing to play other quieter games on the main playground can then do so, safely, happily and uninterrupted.

We were successful and received £9,625 from the Lottery. This allowed us to buy and install two large MUGA ends (pictured) which include football goals, basketball hoops and cricket stumps.



The MUGA's are a great addition to our playground facilities however, they are positioned on grass and during bad weather, cannot be used. To complete the project we need to install a rubber mulch court with sport markings for football and basketball, along with secure fencing to enclose the sport court.

By containing the sport court, pupils can have an uninterrupted game of football, netball or basketball without impacting upon the other children. Because of our pupil's additional needs, they don't always understand the playground situation and the incidents mentioned above can be quite catastrophic for them. Our aim is to include everyone in practical and fun outdoor activities to help them not only burn off excess energy, but also return to the classroom more engaged and ready to learn.

There are also a vast amount of opportunities and benefits to be gained through pre/after school and break/lunch time activities, for some it's their only exercise.

Other organisations who will benefit from this facility are:

- Spalding United youth teams use our facilities
- Action For Children – after school and summer clubs
- NCS – for their summer projects
- Local Church groups use our facilities



- Dalehead Foods hold gala days on site and work with us on a number of other projects
- Our new Behaviour Mentor helps co-ordinate break/lunch time activities for those who struggle to interact
- We run our most successful after school club the football club every Thursday evening throughout the academic year, over 23% of our pupils attend

The total cost of the project is £31,000. As you can see, we need all the help we can get with this project.

If you can help in any way, please do get in touch. If you would like to come and visit The Priory School and have a look around to meet the children and their teachers, please give me a call.

With kind regards

Jacki Bartram

Head of Communications & Fundraising

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