

News release

17 December 2008

Unique Study Support Scheme Reaches Out

An innovative study support scheme has launched its own outreach programme to allow more Sunderland youngsters to benefit from improved key skills.



Following two successful pilot schemes at Hetton School and Farrington Community School Sports College earlier this year, Sunderland's Playing for Success Scheme has introduced its own outreach programme at Hetton School.

Playing for Success Outreach is a four week scheme which, like the core programme, will use sport to encourage and engage pupils. It is taught onsite by the school's regular teachers with support from the Playing for Success team and will incorporate sessions at SAFC Foundation's Centre of Light to help motivate and reward the young people involved.

Traditionally, Playing for Success focuses on numeracy, literacy and ICT skills, however the new outreach programmes will be designed exclusively for each individual school and will concentrate on specific topics, which the school highlights as areas for improvement.

Mr Howey, Assistant Headteacher of Hetton School, commented: "Hetton School has worked alongside Playing for Success over the past six years and we're thrilled to be the first official home of the outreach scheme. The children who were involved with the pilot over the summer thoroughly enjoyed their sessions and have certainly shown that they have developed from their experiences, so we are very pleased to be able to offer other youngsters the opportunity to progress their key skills further."

Councillor Pat Smith, Cabinet Member for Children's Services within Sunderland City Council, added: "Launching the Playing for Success Outreach is a great way to help open up the programme to more young people in Sunderland. Research has shown that youngsters really do achieve more through out of school activities like Playing for Success.

“Although only so many can attend the Centre of Light at any one time, introducing outreach programmes specifically for each school will work to maximise the initiative’s scope within the city,” Cllr Smith continued.

Run by Sunderland City Council and in partnership with the DCSF and SAFC Foundation, Playing for Success currently benefits over 330 youngsters aged between 10 and 14 every year. The established 10 week study support programme, which is held at SAFC Foundation’s Centre of Light, aims to raise key skills by using the medium of sport as a motivational teaching platform.