

School Sport Ministry



RUN WITH IT

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Overview

Using sport is an effective way to communicate the gospel or other character values in a school. This could be in the form of an assembly, RE lesson or 'School games' (a sports-day type event.) Using sport in a practical sense or as a theme creates a relevant and interesting platform to share the gospel. For example, using a video or well-known sports event/incident to bring about a certain theme e.g. compassion, sacrifice or determination and then to zone in on the Gospel. WSM have worked with Scripture union to come up with 'The Games' a one-day school-based activity programme ideal for Key Stage 2, ages 7 to 11 (although is easily adapted for KS1, ages 4 to 6, or KS3, ages 12 to 14). It is a 'themed' day that mixes fun and activity across the curriculum that incorporates PE, RE, PHSE, Art, Geography and other subjects.

Goal

The idea behind this type of outreach is that children would hear the Gospel in schools and be taught about different character qualities in a new, fresh and inspiring way.



Imagine/vision

In a school you have a captive audience of children, meaning the Gospel can easily be shared with a large number of children. Additionally, using sport as a theme makes learning about the Gospel fun, relevant and will capture their attention more, leaving lasting memories.

Target audience

The school children are the target audience (largely primary age), however there is a large range in ages and maturity level that must be considered e.g. doing an assembly for infants compared to juniors will need to vary in content and interaction. In addition through any schools work, the school

staff and parents can be reached either directly from you or indirectly through the children.

What can it achieve?

Doing sports ministry in schools can, for many children (and staff and parents), create a fresh new perspective of Jesus and Christianity. It can enable children to hear the Gospel, learn about the love of Jesus and how it can impact them. It can change any impression about Christianity, which can be 'dulled' down or softened in a school. Sports ministry provides an interactive way that captures their attention, using a theme that they can relate to. Furthermore, school sports ministry can create a domino effect, not only reaching children but also staff and families of the children.



Key principles

1. Have in mind what type of event you want to run in a school
2. Have ideas of themes to share with the school and get feedback
3. With all types of session ensure they are interactive and explain the Gospel simply and clearly.
4. Ensure good organization, appropriate accompanying resources
5. Consider giving the children/school handouts or 'leave behinds' for more information on the Gospel and something to take home.
6. Try to build a relationship with the school to enable you to go in more frequently e.g. quarterly, once a term or at the 'significant' times in the Christian calendar e.g. Easter and Christmas etc.

Ideal number

The ideal number varies according to the type of activity i.e. an RE lesson is best with usual number in a class where as an assembly can be up to a

whole school. 'The Games' can be run with the whole school or with certain age groups depending on staff and facilities available.

Venue

School sports ministry takes at the school. Depending on the type of event will dictate the type of facility used e.g. an assembly will usually be done in the school hall/sports hall, RE lesson usually in a classroom and 'School Games' will run usually outside on playground or field or in a hall (weather dependent).



Stories

Supporting resources

Workers required: 1 or 2 people to lead an assembly or RE lesson. For school games it is often better to have a small team of people to help. These could include school staff but it is better to have sports ministry volunteers. (WSM recommend and can help you start up a team)

Equipment: For an assembly/RE lesson if playing a video then a projector & screen are required but most schools will have access to one. Any additional equipment such as worksheets, question sheets etc. The school sports equipment can be used for 'school games' plus any other specific equipment supplied by the leader.

Ministry resources: Sports ministry tracts, Gospel booklets, children's sport bibles, posters (contact us for more information)

Proclamation

Proclamation of the gospel should always be appropriate to the audience, in school sports ministry the sharing of the Gospel requires some creativity to use sport to bring about the message of the Gospel in a child friendly way. For an assembly or RE lesson where less physical activity is done, an example of bringing the gospel across could include showing a sports video that demonstrates a character quality e.g. compassion,

grace or profiling a Christian athlete, doing a sporting quiz or role plays or using the 'topical blend method' of highlighting a recent sporting event/incident and through a debate or activity journeying towards the Gospel. (See "best ways of sharing the Gospel in sports ministry' Booklet.) For 'The Games' the best way of proclaiming the gospel is similar to that in total coaching where skills or sports drill/challenge illustrates and emphasizes a moral or spiritual principle and a short team talk can also be included within the games. (For more ideas and information see the 'Total coaching' manual)



Discipleship

Doing sports ministry in schools is a form of discipleship and it could be a child's first experience of the Gospel and hearing about Jesus. Since these events are often 'one-offs' it is useful to try and build a relationship with the school to be able to go in again to do regular sessions; do a follow on session; or even start a Christian Union or club after school to build relationships and for children to discover more about the Gospel and be discipled.

Additionally, running sports camps during school holidays can also be a way to disciple children further and create deeper relationships, vice versa, if you are running a camp, going into schools can provide firstly a target audience to market to but enables regular contact and discipleship. For children who

show greater interest in the Gospel or who make a commitment it is useful to have connections with churches who have good children's work to be able to bridge them to a church for further discipleship.

Next steps

1. Pray for vision and wisdom and establish a prayer team to intercede for the event

2. Cast vision to other churches to develop a project team and plan follow-through steps

3. Build a volunteer team to plan and implement the event (WSM specialises in helping form and equip sports ministry teams to stage events such as school sport ministry), visit our community sports team page: www.worldsportministries.com/helping-you/

4. Approach a school, explain what you can offer and your vision - for more information and advice on good practice when approaching schools (e.g WSM have available information and templates for approaching schools, such as phone call scripts, letters of what you can offer, parental letters.

5. Arrange a meeting at the school and make the ask giving your availability and showing your CRB

6. Arrange a date for the session

7. Plan the event and pray over it

8. Gain the required resources and any volunteers

9. Arrive early in good time to set up for the event (particularly for if running a 'school games')

10. Deliver the session
11. Evaluate how it went and continue to pray for children
12. Plan a future event (can work best to approach schools to go in at 'significant' times e.g. Easter or near Christmas)

WSM can have many resources available to get you started. We have a range of excellent resources and curriculums for school games that include already designed sports coaching sessions that teach a specific spiritual or moral value. Contact us directly:

children@worldsportministries.com

Start a Community Sports Team

Beginning a Community Sports Team in your area and receiving training will help you to be able to go into schools and do sports ministry, providing you with a volunteer base and prayer support. Starting a CST will enable you to have continued contact with schools to be able to serve them and having opportunities to share the Gospel.

For more information on establishing a Community Sports Team visit:
www.worldsportministries.com/helping-you/join-or-start-a-cst-2/

