

Celebrating MOVE Day 2024 at Alfreton Park School

We are thrilled to see some wonderful feedback from your MOVE Days, and we can't wait for you to send more photos and videos!

MOVE Day, our annual celebration within our MOVE settings, recognises the incredible hard work and achievements of our MOVE pupils, MOVE teams, and MOVE schools. This special day is dedicated to acknowledging the collaboration between schools, families, and pupils in working together to achieve great outcomes with the MOVE Programme. Each year, MOVE Day features a unique theme to inspire and unite us all. This year's theme, "MOVE Olympics," encouraged everyone to be creative with their planning, looking at celebrating the Olympic and Paralympic games across the curriculum.

At MOVE, we are continually impressed by the amazing MOVE Days organised by our MOVE settings. This year, our Programme Coordinator, Kerry Langsdale, enjoyed catching up with Alfreton Park School. Kerry spoke with their MOVE Coordinators, Donna and Marie, to learn more about how they celebrated MOVE Day and embraced the theme of "MOVE Olympics." Here's a glimpse into our conversation about their experiences, challenges, and the incredible moments that marked their MOVE Day this year.

***Kerry:** Congratulations on a wonderful MOVE Day! You had wheelchair rugby player Mason Baker attend your MOVE Day this year. Could you tell us how that came about?*

***Marie:** Every year we contact Sports Champions and consistently for the last 2 years an athlete has attended our sports days. Before that we had them in twice more, making that four appearances in total. This year when MOVE Day came out and the theme was the Paralympics, we had already arranged for Mason to come to school so we merged the two days. We had Mason in for the morning, who did rugby skills with the pupils and talked about how his journey started to what he is doing now, he did lots of activities related to his rugby training. He was an inspiring athlete and as wheelchair rugby is part of the Olympics, it was great to link it all together.*

*Sports Champions is a not-for-profit organisation committed to fostering an active lifestyle to young people.



Bringing in a sports personality like Mason Baker added a unique and inspiring element to MOVE Day at Alfreton Park School. His presence not only brought excitement but also provided pupils with a tangible role model who embodies resilience and dedication. While you certainly don't need to have a sports personality or celebrity attend your MOVE Day this is a wonderful example of how reaching out to the wider community can have a positive impact on your MOVE Days. What matters is creativity and engagement. MOVE Day should be celebrated throughout the whole school, and can also involve the wider community, creating an inclusive environment, bringing new opportunities, and building stronger connections.

Donna and Marie, as MOVE Coordinators, played a pivotal role in bringing this vision to life. Their proactive approach to planning and community engagement ensured that MOVE Day was not just an event but a memorable experience for everyone involved. They planned activities that were both enjoyable and aligned with MOVE targets, ensuring that every pupil had the opportunity to participate, as well as engaging with the wider community.

Let's see what Donna and Marie have to say about community engagement...

***Kerry:** Could tell us a bit more about who attends your MOVE Day and how you engage parents, carers, and the wider community?*

***Donna:** We sent a Dojo to invite all the MOVE parents to come in, letting them know all the exciting things that we were going to be doing and what will getting up to. We invite parents/carers at Christmas time and other events throughout the year to showcase how MOVE pupils are doing.*

***Marie:** Last year we had our official opening, so our MOVE pupils completed a dance in the hall, on a stage, which was really lovely and there were lots of different people from our architects, sponsors for the school, local businesses, stakeholders, parents, and governors.*

Some of them asked about MOVE so we explained the values and philosophy.

This year we asked our school governors to join our MOVE Day. Luckily our MOVE governor, Becky could attend.



Donna: Moving forward next year we're going to ask a local post-19 adult centre to join us, to open it up to the wider community. We hope they can see what MOVE is about. With some of our MOVE pupils leaving and attending local centres, they can see what MOVE is about and see it in action.



Building a bridge between the school and the wider community is a crucial aspect of MOVE Day. Inviting parents, carers, and community members not only showcases the achievements of MOVE pupils but also fosters a sense of inclusion and support. This community engagement helps to raise awareness about the MOVE Programme and its impact, encouraging broader support and involvement. It also provides pupils with a broader audience to celebrate their successes, enhancing their sense of accomplishment and belonging.

Some settings will be very experienced with planning MOVE Days, and some will be completely new to it. Whether you are planning your first MOVE Day or looking to carry your proud tradition of MOVE Days forward, we encourage you to dive in with enthusiasm and creativity. Engage your MOVE team, your school, all your pupils, and beyond, and remember, our team here at MOVE Europe are always happy to offer support and advice. Experienced schools are also often happy to share their knowledge, and Donna and Marie were no exception.



Kerry: That's fantastic! We've got a lot of MOVE schools getting involved in MOVE Day. Is there any advice you would give to schools who want to make their MOVE Days extra special?

Donna: Just make sure it's fun, and there are lots of opportunities, to showcase MOVE targets.

Marie: I agree Lots of fun, ensure there is enough time to organise, so it's not last minute. Get the whole school community involved. We had our whole MOVE team involved in the planning and shared the plan and agenda with the whole school staff before the day, enabling everyone to have the information to plan for their classes.

Donna: We involved all the pupils from all classes. They were making posters and banners, to support our athletes during their showcase.



Organising a successful MOVE Day requires careful planning and involvement from the entire school community. By starting the planning process early, you can ensure that every detail is considered and that there is ample time to involve everyone in the preparations. Encouraging creativity and participation from all pupils, not just MOVE pupils, helps to create a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere. Activities like making posters and banners not only build excitement but also allow pupils to express their support and enthusiasm. Thank you to Donna and Marie at Alfreton Park for sharing their experiences!

If you haven't already, please fill in the [MOVE Day feedback form here](#), and don't forget to tag us in your photos and videos on social media via [@MOVEProgramme](#) and using the hashtag [#MOVEDay2024](#)!

