



### What is Play Unified?

**Play Unified** (<http://www.playunified.org/>) is a Special Olympics programme; delivered by the Youth Sport Trust and funded by DCMS and Sport England. Play Unified is a **global movement**, aiming to mobilise a generation of young people to make a difference and help create more unified and just communities all around the world.

Play Unified will bring young people with and without intellectual disabilities (ID) together through sport and educational programmes- in schools and communities through creating a unified generation of youth leaders; who will create a world of respect and inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities.

**#PlayUnified is inspired by a simple principle: training together and playing together is a quick path to understanding, acceptance and friendship, breaking down the barriers that exist for people with intellectual disabilities.**

Play Unified includes:

- **Youth Leadership & Advocacy**- empowering young people with ID to have a voice in the design of the sporting opportunities they take part in
  - **Whole school engagement**-creating a unified, fully inclusive school on and off the field of play.
  - **Unified Sports**- enabling young people with and without ID to compete on the same field together \*
- Please note; Unified Sports is funded through Special Olympics and The One 4 All Foundation- led by Thierry Henry*

### Who will be involved in Play Unified?

This is a very special and unique opportunity open to 200 schools, and in particular the Young Ambassador movement within these schools. Where schools do not have Young Ambassadors or young people with intellectual disabilities currently as their Young Ambassadors, this should not discourage schools from being involved. A clear 'job description' of the role of Young Ambassadors we are looking for will be shared to support schools recruit their team of young people.

### Who is eligible to get involved?

Secondary and special schools in England, Scotland and Wales

### Why would schools want to get involved?

- Play Unified can support schools in demonstrating their commitment to the **Equality Duty** through providing inclusive opportunities for all students.
- A budget will be provided for students to deliver inclusive activities/plans in their school- a great opportunity to promote **budget management and planning & organising skills**.
- Play Unified is an opportunity for students to get involved in a **global movement**- being part of the Unified Generation.
- Unified Sports has as its Ambassador **Thierry Henry**- providing a fantastic opportunity to be connected to this movement.

### What are the expectations for delivery?

Schools will need to sign up to be part of the Play Unified movement during the 2015-16 and 2016-17 academic years, and commit to attending a Regional summit (2016) and potentially a National summit (2017). **2-4 Young Ambassadors (50% must be young people who have an ID)** from each school will be identified to lead Play Unified in their school, and drive the development of a fully inclusive school ethos.

Timeline for delivery is:

- **4<sup>th</sup> December 2015** Schools to submit Expressions of Interest
- **December-January 2016:** successful schools notified
- **January 2016**-Welcome Webinar for lead teachers and Young Ambassadors
- **April-June 2016:** Regional Youth Summits



- **June 2016** onwards- delivery of Play Unified (summer term and 2016-17)
- National Youth Summit 2017

### What support do I receive from Youth Sport Trust?

- Delivery budget for inclusive school sport activity (driven by young people)
- Termly engagement (via webinars/emails/summits)
- Online resources
- Play Unified Celebration pack (including the Unified ball which is the global icon of the movement)

### What am I expected to report on?

#### **\*\*Data Collection Window**

Schools will be required to report on the reach of the tool each term through the YST data collection window in the following months: March 2016, July 2016, December 2016, March 2017 and July 2017.

This will include information relating to:

- Number of Young Ambassadors identified
- Number of Young Ambassadors with an intellectual disability
- Number of young people that Young Ambassadors are having a direct impact on in their school

Schools may also be required (in the summer term) to report on the impact Play Unified has on individual young people and partnerships with other organisations through a case study submission. This can be in written or video form.

#### **Evaluation**

Wherever possible, we endeavour to conduct evaluations of all of our work to capture feedback on the programme and any benefits experienced. This typically involves engaging all or a sample of individuals involved in the programme in a variety of ways, such as:

- Surveys before and after the project or course
- Interviews
- Focus groups
- Observations
- Case studies

Schools may either be involved in the research directly or may be required to facilitate the engagement of young people in the research.

### Contact Details

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