

# Disability Awareness comes to You, for All



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December 2009

Dear Head teacher,

For over five years I have been working as a Disability Adviser in RC Diocese of Southwark, where my role was to promote, create and teach inclusion of disabled people within all that the Church offers.

Within Southwark I have been visiting Primary Schools for a day. For the past two years I have been invited into numerous schools in Southwark, I have led days for the whole school on Disability Awareness. I share with both pupils and teachers the many different aspects of disability as well as my own personal experiences of growing up with a physical disability.

From January 2010 I am offering Disability Awareness Days to a broader range of schools. I will be working independently, in both church and state schools to share what inclusion means. It is a great opportunity for all who gather in schools to experience what they are to be part of in the future, as awareness and integration becomes more main stream.

Below is an outline of the session I offer schools.

I like to begin with an assembly, where I introduce the word 'Disability' and there is a little dialogue, where we discuss the two parts of the word, 'Dis' and 'Ability'. We discover that before meeting the person our thoughts can often be negative, which is not the right way to think of anybody.

The children may ask me questions about my disability or related questions. We share how disability may occur and look at what Church says about how to treat each other. "To restore respect for the dignity of all men and women, created in God's image and likeness." (Sacramentum Caritatis 89)

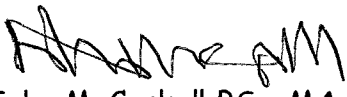
There are four group activities, when children are able to have a brief experience of what it is like to have a disability: to be blind, to be deaf, to have learning or a physical disability. Everyone enjoys these activities and therefore it is important that afterwards we share what has been learnt so that this can be made clear to the whole class. Finally we revisit the word 'Disability': We discover that we all do things in different ways, it is good to share and learn from others

It is a chance for everyone to see how they can reflect on their attitude to disability in order to appreciate the daily adjustments that people with disabilities make.

Although my experience is looking at disability from a Christian perspective, I am keen and able to tailor my visit to the ethos and values of your school.

To book the most suitable day for you or for further information about a visit to your school, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



John McCorkell BSc. MA.