

## Ipswich Town Community Trust goes for GOAL

**Ipswich Town Community Trust has scored by using GOAL as part of the 'Playing for Success' scheme. GOAL delivers high quality online assessments. Written to match the National Curriculum it provides easy to understand reports that identify strengths and weaknesses and give targets for learning.**

Ipswich Town Community Trust have been using GOAL for over five years as part of the 'Playing for Success' scheme, an out of school hours initiative, initially established by the DfES with the support of Local Education Authorities and professional sporting organisations. The scheme integrates popular sports with learning to help improve Literacy, Numeracy and ICT at Key Stages 2 and 3.

24 schools a year get the opportunity to participate in the 10 week training programme at Portman Road. Each school selects 15 pupils to attend the programme- usually pupils who would benefit from focused support, are underachievers or are demotivated. Before their first visit to the ground the schools select a programme of study from either literacy or numeracy.

"We used to deliver a mixed literacy and numeracy curriculum to the students during their 10 weeks with us but began to offer schools the opportunity to select a focus on either subject for the entire 10 weeks dependant upon where they felt the greatest issues lay within their schools. By focussing our efforts with each school on a single subject, we were able to maximise the benefits of GOAL and had a great deal of confidence in reporting back to schools where the students' greatest strengths and areas for continued development lay within the subject."

"On the schools' first visit to Portman Road we give them a tour of the club, and then the pupils sit down at one of our computers and take the GOAL National Curriculum Progress Assessment in either Literacy or Numeracy. The immediate results give us an indication of exactly what National Curriculum level they're achieving, and what specific parts of the schemes of work we need to focus on."

Each training session is 90 minutes long, mimicking game time. Many of the lessons are planned around the questions in the Goal assessments.

All lessons have a football slant, with some lessons even taking place in the stadium itself. Pupils studying Numeracy may get to play dice football, where pupils have to calculate the points total and goal difference of each team, helping with their arithmetic. Fantasy football league lessons help with budgeting and statistics, while those studying Literacy may get the opportunity to hold a mock press conference in the club's Media Suite.

At the end of the ten week programme pupils take the GOAL National Curriculum progress assessment again so the Playing for Success tutors can compare pupil and class scores from the beginning of the course with those at the end and see exactly what effect their teaching has had.

“This information is great for the children as they can see for themselves the progress being made. It is also crucial to the children’s regular teacher as it shows what strands of the National Curriculum are areas of strength and weakness for individuals. Importantly for us it also provides hard evidence to the LEA, DfES and Ipswich Town Community Trust that the programme is succeeding, crucial to the stakeholders’ ongoing support” commented Matthew Try, Learning Projects Manager, Ipswich Town Community Trust.

**Quote:** “Here at Ipswich Town Community Trust we use reports from GOAL to help the learning team plan lessons around individual pupil needs. They highlight pupils’ strengths and weaknesses and allow us to set baseline assessments and provide evidence of pupil progress. It’s a great way to make pupils feel good about their achievements.”

Matthew Try, Learning Projects Manager, Ipswich Town Community Trust.



Supporting learning  
and performance