



“A Game of Two Halves”

“A Game of Two Halves” is an educational workshop designed by local educational organisation, Junior Achievement Ireland in cooperation with League of Ireland football club Social Responsibility officers. It builds on the work of a previous workshop programme developed by Bohemian Football Club called “Belonging to a Fair City”.

The “Game of Two Halves” workshop is aimed at primary school children and is specifically designed to promote the values of empathy and respect, encourage teamwork and raise awareness and an appreciation of diversity. It will be delivered by eight League clubs in communities around Ireland in the coming months.



A rise in far-right sentiment in some local communities around the country has negatively affected community well-being and social cohesion. We in the League of Ireland believe that using the powerful attraction of football and the high-profile platform of League of Ireland football clubs in those areas can be a positive force and an effective tool to promote the ethos of teamwork and inclusivity while making young people aware of the importance of diversity in society.

The workshop is structured as a double class session with the first conducted in the classroom dealing with the theory of the values described above. This will then be followed by a football training session with club coaches delivering health enhancing physical activity whilst also promoting the ethos of teamwork and respect.

The project aims to reduce anti-social behaviour in affected communities around Ireland by using the profile of League of Ireland football clubs to raise awareness of diversity, promote empathy and encourage teamwork. The core focus of the project will be on developing a network of clubs countrywide who will engage their Football & Social Responsibility Officers to lead the programme which will feature:

1. A customised club **educational resource** designed for children aged 9-12 championed by LOI club ambassadors and delivered in primary schools mainly within LOI Club local catchment areas.
2. A **health enhancing physical activity football session** incorporating the principles of teamwork and respect delivered by LOI Club coaches.

Football is a connecting force which connects virtually every culture and population on earth. The “Game of Two halves” project will provide an early intervention to increase an appreciation of diversity and multiculturalism, promote empathy and team building and encourage respect for difference among children in local primary schools.

The project will run for one year when all eight League of Ireland clubs participating will deliver sessions impacting over 7,000 young children.

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