

## Vision Sports Ireland SCHOOL VISIT – Ashbourne Educate Together

Róisín Dermody and Patricia McCarthy from Vision Sports Ireland visited Ashbourne Educate Together on Thursday the 7th of April. Róisín was accompanied by Clipper, her beautiful guide dog. Róisín and Patricia spoke to one of our Senior Infant classes, Ron's 2nd Class and Fiona's 2nd and 3rd Class about the work of Vision Sports Ireland, a volunteer organisation which promotes sport and recreation for vision impaired people. This 3 minute video clip illustrates this: [Vision Sports Ireland Video](#)



Róisín, a keen swimmer, spoke about her own personal sporting exploits (naming five different sports in total that she has pursued) and having represented Ireland. Pupils asked some really interesting questions of the two ladies and learned about getting around using a cane, the ins and outs of guide dog training, how to text when you're visually impaired and using public transport with a dog amongst other things.



Pupils then had a practical session playing goalball, a team game designed for people who are visually impaired. It is a paralympic sport and will feature in Rio 2016. Check it out here: [Goalball 1 min clip](#)

Pupils were blindfolded and played in teams of 3, with the aim being to throw the sound-ball into the opposition's half of the court and have it pass their end line to score a goal. When defending pupils had to use their hearing and teamwork skills to stop the ball and go on the offence themselves! Great fun was had by all participants and thanks to Róisín, Patricia and Vision Sport Ireland for facilitating this.



Vision Sport Ireland are hosting MayFest, a multi sports weekend for vision impaired people, in ALSAA soon: [MayFest information](#)

Visit Ashbourne Educate Together [website](#)