

Case Study - Cúl Eile Summer Camp

Inclusion



Club	Clonakilty GAA Club
County	Cork
Location	Ahamilla, Clonakilty, Co. Cork, P85 WN84
Rural/Urban	Rural
Codes	Hurling and Football
Membership	793

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Plan

Cúl Eile is a Summer Camp organised to welcome and include children with autism into our Club and offer a safe, fun, and enjoyable experience for all.

The Camp was planned and designed specifically to the children's needs following consultation with parents, local national schools in the Parish, Cork Sports Partnership, Cork GAA, Dr. Susan Crawford, local Occupational Therapists and with the approval of the Club Executive.

The idea for the Camp originated from a conversation between a parent in the community and the Childrens Officer when the parent mentioned that their child 'would love to do a summer camp' but the 'noise' and 'the hustle and bustle' would make it impossible for him enjoy and therefore attending would not be possible.

All coaches to have the required GAA coaching levels completed plus additional training provided by Cork Sports Partnership.

Cork Sports Partnership also supported the Childrens Officer in preparing modified Cúl Camp registration forms in order to gather further relevant information from parents that would ensure the safety and enjoyment of each child. An prearranged Meet and Greet Night gives an opportunity to introduce both parents and children to the Club's facilities prior to Camp and also very importantly, to the Camp coaches and volunteers. Parents were also encouraged to take photographs of the facilities.

Approval from Cork GAA granted for the Camp to take place on the provision of Garda Vetting and Coaching certification for each volunteer involved.

Cork GAA also provide a Cúl Camp pack for each child registered (jersey, zip top and backpack) and a reduced registration fee was agreed as Cúl Eile, on expert advice, is a three day camp as opposed to the regular five day camp.



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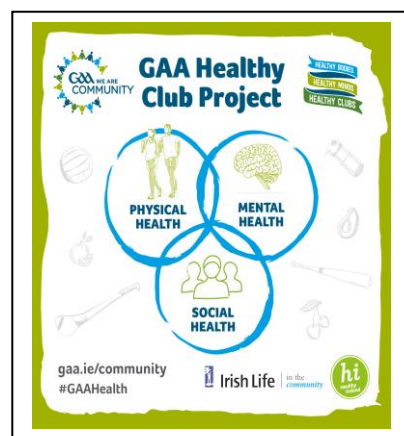


Partners

The Camp is led by the Healthy Club Committee with the support of The Childrens Officer and Games Promotion Officer. Current and retired senior players, adult and underage team coaches, both male and female, volunteer to coach and are supported by the Childrens Officer.

Partners within the club:

- Healthy Club Committee
- Club Executive
- Childrens Officer
- Games Promotion Officer
- Parents
- Senior players
- Adult and Underage Coaches



Partners outside the club:

- Cork GAA
- Cork Sports Partnership
- Clonakilty Parish National Schools
- Dr. Susan Crawford, Get Autism Active
- Local Occupational Therapists
- Surf2Heal
- Shannon Vale Foods, Clonakilty
- SuperValu Clonakilty



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Activity

Cúl Eile has a maximum of ten children for camp, is open to boys and girls within the Cúl Camp age requirement, and from all local National Schools in the Parish. Again based on expert advice from parents, Cork Sports Partnership and Susan Crawford, it is a three day camp which concludes with families being invited to join their children and coaches for fun activities and presentation of a certificate of attendance.

The main priority of the camp is individual, concentrated attention to each child while working within a group environment. The camp is based on the typical Cúl Camp activities, football, hurling and rounders with the addition of GAA Fun 'n Run plus regular timeouts for rest, water breaks and fun games.



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The Club

Parents, coaches, volunteers, and Club all reported a significant positive impact.

Some parents who had not previously visited the Club reported feeling comfortable and welcome in the surroundings. They embraced the sense of community, taking the opportunity to avail of walkways and seating placed throughout the grounds.

One child who hadn't previously enjoyed sports stated he'd, "like to stay for two weeks" and, amongst many messages from parents, one Mum saying, "so good to see our beautiful boy being facilitated to participate in something most families take for granted. It gave us all a great boost to be included."

The Meet and Greet prior to camp starting is imperative as it established an important connection between everyone involved – children, parents, and coaches. Children who were reluctant about joining the camp on arrival very quickly formed a bond with the coaches and left looking forward to returning. One very experienced coach said, "one of my favourite ever camps with really inspiring kids, super coach-kid bonds all round".

Quote from Parent ...

"It was perfect .. It was the perfect amount of children .. It was put together every well .. My child absolutely loved it. It was such a great opportunity for him as his siblings would be doing the main Cul camp and he would have been left out only for getting this opportunity."