

Craigmarloch School awarded MOVE Centre of Excellence status for their work in supporting their pupils to sit, stand and walk and celebrate with a MOVE-at-the-MOVIES 'LAFTAS' award ceremony

Craigmarloch School in Port Glasgow was today named a MOVE Centre of Excellence, only the 18th school in Europe to achieve this distinction. The award was celebrated with a MOVE-at-the MOVIES 'LAFTAS' ceremony, which saw pupils walk the red carpet dressed in their best and presented with 'LAFTAS'. Parents and Council members attended the event that also saw the school presented with its Centre of Excellence plaque.

Craigmarloch School has been using the MOVE Programme for the past 5 years and has achieved MOVE Centre of Excellence status because of the work that is taking place in the school, integrating the MOVE Programme into classes as well as into each child's individual learning plan. The programme is an activity based programme, run by the charity The MOVE Partnership, which enables children and adults with physical disabilities and/or complex needs to develop and improve their skills to independently sit, stand and walk.

To achieve Centre of Excellence status, Craigmarloch School has demonstrated on-going 'best practice' in both the interpretation of the theory of MOVE, and in helping children with disabilities learn the skills to enable them to become more independent. MOVE Centres of Excellence provide long term continuity for the MOVE Programme on a local and national level. They allow interested parties to visit their sites as a recommendation of what can be achieved through the programme and they also provide support to all MOVE users in their region.

The MOVE Partnership's Chief Executive, Nigel Carter, commented, "The children, teachers, therapists and parents at Craigmarloch School have all worked extremely hard with the MOVE Programme to achieve Centre of Excellence status. The MOVE Programme aims to get children moving around in different ways, thereby reducing health problems, including a potential decrease in the need for surgery, and improving quality of life. Progress is also seen in communication and social skills as the children gain the ability to interact with the world around them."

Aileen Morgan, Teacher and MOVE Trainer at the school described what these achievements mean to Craigmarloch: "It's an absolute privilege to work with the children on the MOVE Programme and help them achieve what, in many cases, had been thought impossible. MOVE is a refreshing, positive approach, giving many of these children and families great feedback and positivity for the future. The programme shows that given the opportunities every child CAN ACHIEVE! To gain the recognition from MOVE and become a MOVE Centre of Excellence is fantastic for our school, pupils and their families. It reinforces the extremely high level of good practice we work towards. We are proud to celebrate our success, and with our new status to help more children and young people than ever access the MOVE Programme."

For further information on the MOVE Programme please see www.themovepartnership.org.uk or contact move@themovepartnership.org.uk

It costs the MOVE Partnership just £252pa to allow a child to access the MOVE Programme and its benefits for a year. To help children like those at Craigmarnock to live the healthiest and happiest lives possible by accessing the MOVE Programme, please donate to the charity at - www.justgiving.com/donate

Notes to Editor:

For further information please contact Daniel Charcharos at the MOVE Partnership on: 020 7403 6382, or email: daniel@themovepartnership.org.uk

The MOVE Partnership is a small UK based national charity working with schools/centres, teachers, therapists and parents to provide the most severely disabled children and adults throughout the UK with increased mobility by teaching the skills necessary for independent sitting, standing, walking and transferring. As a result, the MOVE Programme can help to develop the child or adult's cognitive and communication skills, can improve health and social inclusion whilst also providing opportunities to gain greater independence and to make choices for themselves.

MOVE provides a best practice framework for parents and professionals working with disabled children and adults. It seeks to bring services together and to encourage collaborative working at all levels, placing a structure around work that is already taking place, and its health and social benefits are supported by academic research.

Over 4,000 children have already benefitted from the MOVE Programme. To date more than 4,000 people have been trained to practice the MOVE Programme and there are over 600 schools, centres and PCT departments using the MOVE Programme across the country.

For further details, please see www.themovepartnership.org.uk