

# Assembly: Be Fair!

## You will need:

A length of rope for tug of war.

Sports kit and a (preferably Fairtrade) football

## Activity:

**Set up an 'unfair' tug of war with perhaps six small children on one side and ten older children and teachers on the other.**

Ask the children, 'Was that fair? Was it a fair competition? Did the smaller group have much chance of winning?'

Competing in sport depends on things being fair. If one person has an advantage over the others, it isn't a fair competition. Sometimes people try to cheat by taking drugs that improve their performance. This destroys the whole spirit of the competition.

Who has ever played a game where someone cheated? Who has lost as a result? How did it feel? Have you ever shouted 'he cheated! That's not fair!' It can be very frustrating if we are trying to take part fairly and follow the rules, and other people cheat.

It can be the same when different countries in the world are competing to sell the same products. There are people in the USA and people in Africa who both grow cotton. They both want to sell their cotton. But because the USA is a stronger, richer country, it creates a situation which means their cotton can always be cheaper to buy than cotton from Africa, so the African farmers struggle to get a fair price.



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Hold up some sports kit and a football (preferably a Fairtrade football) or have someone come in wearing sports kit and playing with a football. Ask if the children know where these things are made. Look up on the labels where the clothes are made.

All the equipment used in the Olympics has to come from somewhere. The sports kits and footballs and other things are made in different parts of the world. Sometimes clothing and sports balls are made in unfair conditions. Sometimes children are forced to work or people work for long hours for not much pay.

When we buy clothes and use sports equipment do we normally think about where it has been made? It's easy not to think about it, but we all have a part to play. We can all help to make the world a little bit fairer. We can look out for the Fairtrade Mark. Fairtrade is different. Fairtrade ensures that those who produce the cotton or footballs are paid fairly and have good working conditions.

Just as fairness is important in games and in sport, it is also important to make sure people are treated fairly. By making choices about what we are going to buy, we can show that this is important to us.

Look out for the Fairtrade Mark, on food, clothing and footballs during these Olympic games. Are your school footballs fair trade? Could you change your school uniform to fair trade?



### Prayer:

Lord God, thank you for games and sports which are fun and often good for our health.

Thank you for the Olympic games, the opportunity for the country to come together and cheer on our teams and show hospitality to people from all over the world.

Please help us to treat others fairly in all that we do, whether we are playing games, spending time with our families or choosing what we will buy or which sports equipment to use.

Help us to take every chance we have to make the world a fairer place.

Thank you for Fairtrade. Be with all the fair trade producers and all those working in this country to make the world better for those who are poor.

**Amen**



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