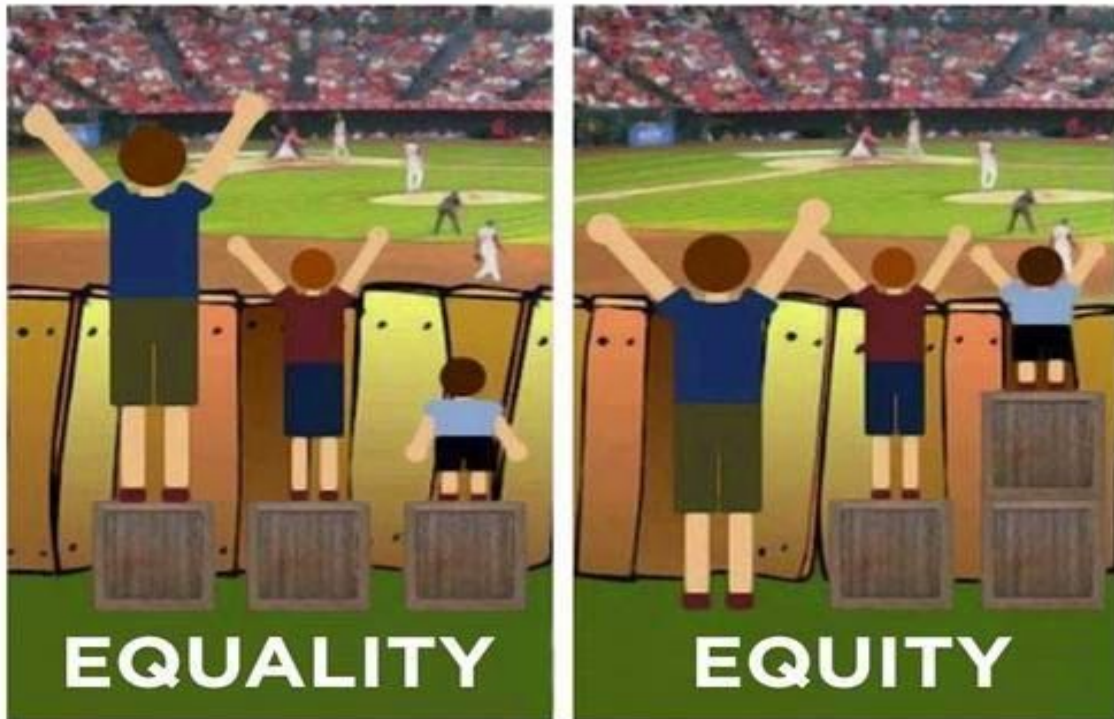


Inclusion Assembly Is it fair to treat everybody the same way?

Andrew Scott, Educational Psychologist



I facilitated a whole school assembly in a primary school which parents and guardians were invited to. The aim of this assembly was to practically demonstrate the above image. It was hoped that this assembly would help reinforce ideas around inclusion and that fairness is not always treating everybody in the same way.

This assembly was facilitated in the school hall, with a blanket setup across the stage in the hall. The assembly was as interactive as possible, I asked for volunteers from the young people to occupy each role in the picture. These young people initially all stood on the same number of milk crates and only the tallest student could see over the blanket. Through discussion and dialogue with volunteers in the assembly who wanted to contribute we arrived at the conclusion that despite all the young people having the same number of boxes this was not in fact “fair” and that the smallest young person required more boxes. We were able to talk about what this could look like in the classroom and that some people may require more help, different equipment or even different rules. The young people appeared to engage in dialogue and discussion about this perspective and were generally very understanding of this inclusive perspective.

After this assembly I was invited to a coffee morning that was attended by many of the parents who watched the assembly and was able to talk about these ideas in more depth in an informal environment with the parents who were interested.