**Different on the Outside, Same on the Inside Transcript**

**Maree Jenner:**

My name is Maree Jenner.

I work and live in a world that’s built for average height adults. So, every part of my day outside of my home can be a challenge because the world is not built for me.

**Children:**

Good morning, Maree.

**Maree Jenner to children:**

That’s lovely. Thank you. Can anyone notice anything different about me? Yes?

**Children:**

That you’re a bit shorter than everyone?

**Maree Jenner to children:**

I’m a bit shorter than everybody, aren’t I!

**Maree Jenner:**

Different on the Outside, Same on the Inside is a school inclusion awareness programme. So, it’s an awareness of difference, and acceptance of difference because we’re all different, we look differently, we do things differently, but we all have on the inside the same goals and aspirations and basically wanting to be included.

First week I go into the school, and I talk about myself and about language in relation to difference and the challenges that I face because I am the height of a child. And so, then I help to increase the children’s awareness of the barriers that are in society in relation to physical barriers, but also people’s attitudinal barriers. And we look at what they’ve observed in their community.

They also come up with ideas to make things more accessible. So basically, overall it’s looking at the social model of disability to make the environment universally designed for everybody.

**Maree Jenner to children:**

So, this one here is a button that I would use, or someone in a wheelchair to lower the clothes in a shop so I can try them on.

**Maree Jenner:**

The responses that I get, they really, some of them put a smile on my face. The young girl, she created a shrink gun. And she thought that I would have this gun and I could then use it to reduce the size of a piece of clothing, or a chair that would make it more accessible.

A young boy, he designed a shop bot. He basically created ‘click and collect.’

**Child one:**

What I learnt was the need or the importance to make the world a better place for everybody.

**Child two:**

In our school, we should make it more inclusive and accept everybody how they are, the way they are.

**Child three:**

I learnt that 90% of the people with disabilities have invisible disabilities.

**Amanda Austin:**

So, the best things about the programme are definitely the impact it’s had on the students’ behaviour and language. It’s much more positive now. Their empathy is just starting to be developed and instead of just looking at the world from their viewpoint, they can walk in other people’s shoes.

**Courtney Riddle:**

I would hundred percent recommend this programme for all other schools. I think the valuable lessons that came out of it cannot be taught from classroom teachers.

**Maree Jenner to Children:**

We like to be included in the sports or the cricket team?

**Children:**

Yes.

**Maree Jenner to Children:**

Yeah. Accepting one another’s difference in important, isn’t it?

**Maree Jenner:**

I see this as an early intervention because with children they’re curious. They’re the adults of tomorrow so they will make the world a better place.