

Just like you but different'

St Peter's C of E Primary School has produced a play to raise awareness of diabetes after one pupil was diagnosed with the condition. The school performed 'Just like you but different' in an assembly. The play was the idea of a member of staff Vicky Hardy who supports Madison Quinn.

Madi was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes in February this year. Ms Hardy said: "When Madi was diagnosed, we wanted to make sure that the school was able to manage her condition while at school and not miss out on anything. We have provided plenty of information to parents of the pupils regarding Madi's condition, but then realised that we also needed to help the children at the school understand, and that's where the idea for the play came from."

Type 1 diabetes develops when the insulin-producing cells in the body have been destroyed and the body is unable to produce any insulin. It is treated with daily insulin doses and is the most common form of diabetes diagnosed in children.

Miss Hardy, who oversees the school's drama club, added: "We have 40 children in the drama club who took part in the play, which took the audience on a journey from what type 1 diabetes is, the symptoms, what 'hypos' and 'hypers' are and how to manage the condition"

Madi was diagnosed after her mother noticed that she was constantly thirsty and taking frequent trips to the toilet – two of the main symptoms of type 1 diabetes. Other symptoms include tiredness and losing weight. Madi's mother Hayley Quinn, who is also a teaching assistant at the school added: "Ever since Madi was diagnosed, the school has been so supportive. They have made sure that staff are fully trained so that they understand what type 1 diabetes is and Vicky is always there to help Madi should she need it."

Children with diabetes need good care in school to help them keep their blood glucose level stable.

The school has also been raising awareness of the condition through fundraising activities including a race night supported by parents of the pupil which has raised more than £400 for Diabetes UK.

Diabetes UK regional fundraiser Louise Simonian said "The work Vicky and the school are doing to raise awareness of type 1 diabetes is wonderful and a great example that good diabetes care in schools is achievable."

"I'd like to say a big thank you for the support Vicky, the school and Madi and her family have given to Diabetes UK, helping us realise our vision of a world where diabetes can do no harm."

To find out more about type 1 diabetes and diabetes care in schools, visit diabetes.org.uk.

