Paget Primary School

Using the Primary PE and Sport Premium to transform PE for whole school impact.

Paget Primary school is based in Birmingham and has approximately 400 students.

In the past, there has not been a whole school approach or value for physical education, games, health and wellbeing. The school offered two hours of curriculum PE and limited extra-curricular activities, with just seven clubs per week and attended very few external competitions. Here, Pastoral Manager for Enrichment & Motivation, Gemma Spiers, talks about how the Primary PE and Sport Premium was used to transform sport and impact the whole school, by providing the children with life skills and improving behaviour and attainment.

Objective

Although the children showed some enjoyment for sporting activities, the provision of opportunity to engage in sport was limited and children did not always have appropriate PE kit to be able to engage in the lesson. The school faced attendance levels below the national average, with children displaying challenging behaviours and becoming disengaged from learning. There was a need to increase attendance levels and most importantly, reengage the pupils.

The school needed to ensure there was a whole school improvement in PE and extra-curricular activities and a sustained improvement in attitudes. Paget also wanted to provide support for families, so the children could continue to enjoy the benefits gained from participating in sport.

Action

The appointment of a Pastoral Manager was to address the issues the school faced and to do so, sport was used to change attitudes and behaviours of staff, parents and children. Funding from the Primary PE and Sport Premium was used to increase extra-curricular activities before and after school and during lunch times. Specific clubs were also introduced to target certain groups of children, including the more traditionally academic, as well as those whose social, emotional and physical health was in decline. This was monitored in weekly development meetings with lunch time staff and the Pastoral Manager.

Since the challenge was around using physical activity and sport to change attitudes and behaviour, PE was included on the agenda and more emphasis was placed on the subject in the school’s Curriculum Guarantee. Lunchtimes were also reviewed, new equipment was purchased to provide the children with a range of activities they could get involved with and training was given to lunchtime staff; including training in physical games, Makaton, attachment and trauma training and ‘successful supervisors’. Another significant improvement with regards to training was that all staff members had PE training to develop teachers’ confidence in delivering PE effectively. The PE lead also attended training for safe practice in PE training, swimming, getting children active and subject leader development training. A PE apprentice was also recruited.

In addition to making changes to the provision of sport, other smaller changes were made which would improve attitudes. New kits were purchased for competitions as it was believed this would support the idea of belonging and encourage support for sporting values. To further develop the idea of sporting values and belonging, the Primary PE and Sport Premium funding was also used to introduce a ‘Sports Crew’ to develop young leaders, sports leaders, a media team and play leaders which was made up of children from years four to six. The Sports Crew developed and now deliver the ‘Wake Up Shake Up’ to children across the school.

Impact - Children

The most notable improvements have been seen among key children who were disengaged from learning and close to exclusion, as these pupils were specifically targeted, so the school could look to reengage them by recognising their sporting talents. One pupil in particular now plays for a variety of sports teams, is a sports leader and has recently become a key member of Erdington District Girls Football team. Another pupil credits the improved sporting provision has changed a lot of things for him, namely his attitude to school and his social life:

“Sport has changed my life. Before I came to Paget I was lazy and bored, my old school didn’t have many clubs and they were really expensive. At Paget there are lots of clubs and they are so fun. I could say that sports at Paget has helped me make friends and is literally the greatest thing ever!”.

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As a result of the changes made to the provision of PE and the training provided to teachers, more children have been able to enjoy sport and build confidence in their physical abilities and social situations. Children are also very proud and enthusiastic to take part in competitions. There was previously a fear among the children when taking part in competitions, but they are now gaining more confidence to try, with one year six child stating:

“I was so scared and now I’m really confident and I can nearly do anything”.

Impact - School

The biggest impact the school has seen is in behaviour levels, which needs to reflect their willingness to join a school sports team and as a result, the school has seen an improvement in behaviour and increase in attendance as well. In 2017/18, attendance was 94.17% whereas in the previous academic year it was 93.7%. In addition, the physical abilities of the children have also improved as well, where in 2015/16 academic year, no children could swim 25 metres when finishing Year 6, now 47% can.

There has also been a marked increase in participation in competitions. In the academic year of 2017/18, 54 competitions were attended by 142 Paget children, compared with 26 the previous academic year and 6 the one prior to that. As a result, the school now has a strong, established community and sporting links and the school also achieved Gold in the School Games Mark this year. These drastic improvements have also been noted by Ofsted who in June 2017, said:

“Pupils’ participation rates are high, and this impacts positively on their mental and physical wellbeing”.

Teachers across the school have also been impacted, as they are more confident in delivering higher quality PE lessons, which has been reflected in the increased number of school staff running extra-curricular activities throughout the year. The headteacher comments:

“Since the appointment of the Pastoral Manager for Enrichment and Motivation, Paget has gone from strength to strength. The children have gained a wealth of skills and experiences through PE and sport and have started to experience what success feels like which is filtering back into the classroom.”

Advice

The use of the Primary PE and Sport Premium has allowed Paget to transform the value of PE in school, which has in turn, impacted attainment, the physical abilities of the children and the life skills they have gained. The success of this transformation can be attributed to several factors:

- A leading member of the team to oversee and drive all PE and wellbeing of whole school attitude to sport and activities.
- All school-based staff leading our extra-curricular provision including before, during and after school. This included teachers, TA’s, pastoral managers, PE apprentice and office-based staff.
- Children’s involvement in participating, leading and officiating activities.
- More active lunchtimes and a higher responsibility and involvement led by the lunchtime supervisors.
- Staff professional development in specific areas of activity.
- Relationships with parents.
- A stronger and more established links with community projects within the area and Birmingham as a whole.

A huge commitment by all staff members has ensured the transformation of PE and sport at Paget has been successful for the whole school community.

Next Steps

The placing of PE and sport, including the sporting values, at the heart of the school’s ethos and curriculum is key to ensuring continued success, with or without funding. There is a real drive and passion for sport at Paget and this is evident through the attitudes and commitment of staff. The upskilling of the staff is a large factor in sustaining the high-quality PE, sport and active lifestyles provision at Paget. Extra-curricular activities are, in the main, run by existing school staff who give up their time freely to support and develop Paget families.

The School and the PTFA have agreed to continue to fund the school mini-bus thus enabling the children to attend the wealth of competitions and activities. As a result of funding from the Primary PE and Sport Premium, the school is now also well-resourced and now has a range of equipment that supports a wide range of interests and activities.

The use of children as young leaders and sports leaders motivates younger pupils and many of them say that when they are in Year 5 they want to be one too. This influence has led to the school taking applications from Year Two young leaders. This shows that this role has become part of what it means to be at Paget and is embedded.

For more information and advice about transforming PE in your school, and making the most out of the allocation of the Primary PE and Sport Premium, please visit www.youthsporttrust.org/PE-sport-premium