



PE and School Sport at Thursby Primary School – the use of external coaches and CPD

What was the issue?

When the PESSPA Funding was allocated in 2013 the first thing we did as a school was look at what our PE curriculum and school sport provision offered our children. We found that our approach had become rather narrowed (offering the same sports/activities) year in year out and that staff felt they needed development in the planning, delivery and assessment of PE.

How did we go about solving it? What did we do?

In the summer term of 2013-2014 we employed coaches from Sports Plus for 8 weeks. They provided weekly 1-hour PE lessons for children from EYFS to Year 6, a 30-minute lunch club and a 1-hour after school club once a week.

To begin with teachers were encouraged to observe the sports coaches – looking closely at ways in which they delivered the lessons, noting down why they were high quality and how they could then transfer this into their own teaching.

Alongside this the PE subject leader and other members of staff went on PE specific CPD which was then fed back to other staff, these included PE Subject Leader CPD day, creating a new PE Curriculum CPD day, inclusive tennis training and Maths of the Day CPD.

From 2014-2018 school staff and the coaches from Sports Plus worked together developing planning, delivering and assessing PE from EYFS to Year 6. Teaching staff moved from the role of observer to participant, then team teacher and finally teaching with the coach as support.

The use of coaches for lunch and after school clubs meant we were able to offer a broad variety of activities and even engage our least active pupils by inviting them to an 'invite only' lunch club.

During the 2016-2017 academic year, the PE Subject Leader completed a Level 5 qualification in Primary PE Specialism. This has enabled her to deliver training and support to staff when it has been needed. It has also meant that not only has her own subject knowledge improved and but so has the staffs.

The purchase of, training for and implementation of 'Maths of the Day' in 2018/19 meant that staff were able to increase the physical activity of children across school. Active learning is one of our school's key drivers and the children gain so much from learning in this manner.

In order to aid staff with assessment of PE we purchased the Active Cumbria Participation and Achievement Tracker (ACPAT) system to use in school. This tool enabled us to see

where our areas of development were as a school and meant that we could look for CPD for staff in those areas in order to improve both their teaching and the children's learning.

What has been the difference it has made, to teachers, to teaching, to pupils?

Working alongside coaches and attending CPD has meant that teachers' subject knowledge has improved as has their confidence around the subject. Staff are now happy to, able to and confident with adapting schemes of work to suit the needs of their current class. They are able to identify gaps in the children's learning and have a bank of activities they can call upon to close those gaps. The children continue to experience high quality PE lessons, twice weekly, and understand the importance of PE, school sport and physical activity within their day. From 2019/20 we were in a position to draw away from sports coaches delivering PE lessons and class teachers were trained and much more competent to lead all PE lessons themselves. The sports funding was able to be utilised in different ways moving forwards and this tide in with our revised vision, aims and values including our curriculum drivers of utilising the environment, developing resilience and promoting independence. We have since spent the sports funding on a school running track to support our physical development by utilising the environment.

Whilst we no longer have sports coaches to deliver PE lessons we continue to use sports coaches for leading after school clubs and this has enabled continued specialism for pupils who choose to take up the opportunity of extra curricular activities in smaller groups.

What are our future plans?

We are currently looking at improving our provision of OAA and Orienteering as a school. Both of which will come with staff CPD in order to give them increased confidence with delivering high quality lessons for the children.

Dedicated CPD will remain high on the agenda for staff and will be offered when it is available and relevant.

The subject leader will continue to read around the subject, complete CPD and then train/feedback to staff so that ALL children can continue to experience high quality PE lessons throughout their time at Thursby Primary School.