

Tees Valley Sport – Phase 4 Case Study



Easterside Academy, Middlesbrough

Sustainable use of Coaches to upskill Teaching Staff

Background

Easterside is a fully inclusive Primary Academy for children aged 3 – 11, located just outside of the town of Middlesbrough in the Tees Valley. It is a member of a wider umbrella trust of academies known as The Discovery Alliance. There are approximately 300 children on roll. The Headteacher has been committed to using the PE & Sport funding for sustainable development from its inception. A significant proportion of children enter the school in the foundation stage with below expected physical development and this underpins the drive to raise standards through high quality teaching and learning in physical education.

The school is also committed to provide learning outside the classroom. They are Youth Sport Trust members and belong to the Middlesbrough Teaching Alliance.

Quote – Headteacher/staff

"Our primary aim for spending our Sports Funding has always been about improving the quality of teaching in Physical Education and therefore increasing the % of children at Age Related Expectation's across the school, whilst instilling a life long love for physical activity. One of the ways we're successfully doing this, is through providing quality coaches to work alongside our teachers over six week periods, providing excellent professional development. As a result staff confidence has grown and pupil outcomes have improved." Delyth Linacre (Headteacher)

Quote – Pupil(s)

PE is at the heart of our school. It gives us the opportunity to develop our skills, compete in sport and improve our fitness. We also are able to problem solve, work as a team and be active outdoors. We hope to continue this love of PE for the rest of our lives.
(Collaborative quote from a Year 6 class)

Actions

The PE Coordinator completes an annual skills audit. Quality assured coaches are then secured to provide a 6 week support package for the respective staff including:- working with staff to increase knowledge in fundamental movement techniques with appropriate applications, how to show and develop progression, widen and extend teaching and learning with technical skill and understanding. All teachers are then observed using the new skills and areas for development are discussed. Coaches have supported the school in dance, gymnastics, net/wall games, striking/fielding games and multi skills. Additional specialist coaches support KS1 and reception through a Yoga and movement specialist approach to build the foundations of physical development and also enhance productivity.

The Pupil Well-Being Leader (with a sports degree background) also leads an extensive out of hours programme which offers a wide range of traditional and less traditional activities.

Impact

100% of staff have reported feeling more confident in teaching supported areas of the curriculum following the coach support package. Lesson observations and support evaluations confirm the effectiveness of this approach with technical and appropriate differentiated teaching being evident.

An internal cohort tracking system shows the age related ability of the children is progressing year on year with a change from 75%(2013) to 88% in KS1 and 88% to 92% in KS2 (2015) resulting in more children achieving the expected standards. A particular increase in Year 1 pupils has been evident with children showing greater ability in listening, concentration, behaviour and confidence following the yoga intervention, thus improving learning.

86% of children attend after school clubs and have a desire to represent the school in competitions. The competition opportunities have increased from 8 in 2013 to 16 in 2015. The school entered the swimming gala for the first time on 2014 following a swimming teacher intervention where teachers accompanying children to the pool were upskilled in swimming techniques and session delivery. Wheelchair basketball has become a significant activity for the school, providing an inclusive opportunity in which the children strive to become involved and 'make the team'.

Silver School Games Mark standard was achieved in 2015 and Silver Learning outside the Classroom award was achieved in 2016.

How partners are supporting the school/cluster of schools to embed and sustain the activity

Accessing CPD through YST, the Middlesbrough Alliance and local coaches are building an empowered workforce. Tees Valley Sport School Project Officer has delivered whole staff CPD resulting a greater understanding of the importance and purpose of the PE curriculum. The Discovery Alliance is extending local competitions between the Alliance schools to provide additional opportunities for the children. Playground markings and equipment are available for the young leaders, who are trained by the Wellbeing Lead and ensure all children have safe, interactive opportunities during play and lunchtimes. After school clubs are well attended and the school embraces national initiatives where appropriate e.g. Change 4Life Clubs. All elements of the PE and Sport action plan are integrated to ensure a sustainable future.