

afPE

At Burnham-on-Crouch Primary School we believe all pupils should have the opportunity to participate and enjoy Physical Education (PE). Our school places high value on Physical Education, School Sport and Physical Activity (PESSPA) ultimately to enhance children's 'physical literacy'. Aside from the obvious health benefits, PE can also improve a child's self-esteem and is essential to their mental wellbeing. Within our school environment, the pupils enjoy a range of experiences with the overall goal to ignite a love for learning across all subjects. We thrive to ensure our PE curriculum is inclusive, diverse and exciting.

The employment of a specialist PE Teacher was a significant step towards developing and enhancing our PE provision. This allowed for a wider range of sports and activities to be taught to our children, a significant increase in extra-curricular activities and competitive sport to become more accessible for a higher percentage of our pupils, including those with SEND.

In order to underline the quality of teaching and learning within PE, and embed an exciting, engaging curriculum, we applied to the Association for Physical Education (afPE) accreditation process. After a successful application we were awarded the Gold standard 'Quality Mark'. Some of the key justifications for our award are outlined below:

- The passion for PESSPA shown by the Head Teacher and PE Lead has been translated into a curriculum and wider provision which has breadth and depth and attempts to meet the needs of all pupils.
- The school has achieved a great amount over the past two years and this application is testament to that. They are presently on an exciting journey which within a small amount of time should result in them attaining Distinction status. Some small changes, additions and improvements would put this well within their reach. The school is aware of these and I am certain after conversations with the PE Lead and the Headteacher that these will be actioned very quickly.
- The standard of Learning and Teaching highlighted within the application was borne out in discussions, lesson observation and pupil panel sessions.

In our last Ofsted inspection the positive contribution from PE supported our school in successfully achieving an 'Outstanding' judgement.



'The PE and sport premium is used very efficiently to provide pupils with a wide variety of opportunities to be physically active and experience a very broad range of sporting activities. Resources and training have been provided for teachers to ensure a wide range of sports are offered'. Pupils are appreciative of these activities. An extensive range of popular sports clubs and physical activities are offered, including football, netball, dance, boccia and cross-country running.' Ofsted 2019

Our participation in Panathlon events over the last few years has underlined our highly inclusive culture we have developed within our school community. Children with SEND have participated in a range of events e.g. Swimming, Boccia and Bowling, held at iconic venues e.g. The Olympic Pool at Stratford. This truly underlines our belief that sport should and will be accessed by all children at our school, regardless of the barriers they may face.

Specific focus groups have been formed to support particular needs of our children:

- A girls group who identified as having self-esteem and confidence issues restricting their participation, was formed as part of the 'This Girl Can' initiative to empower those girls to be more active.
- A boys group, identified as having reduced levels of activity due to the Covid pandemic, was formed to support those boys to significantly raise their levels of activity both within school time and whilst at home.

Another key event after successfully securing our afPE Quality Mark related to Active Essex. Our school PE provision was nominated by several parents for the "Education Champion of the Year" at the Active Essex Sports Awards 2019. It was a great honour to be shortlisted, especially as the nomination was initiated by our school community. Once again, this underlined the quality and commitment of our school to provide high quality PESSPA for our children. Although we did not win the award this certainly reinforced our position as a school continually striving to deliver high quality PESSPA.



Our children's achievements both in school and during their own time outside of school are showcased and celebrated. Regular updates via our Twitter account (@Burnham_PE) and posts on the main school website celebrate and broadcast these achievements to a wider audience.

The world changing event and impact of the Covid pandemic was certainly felt in relation to PE. However, in line with our whole school, PE teaching quickly went 'online' in order to keep our children, and in some cases entire family groups, active and healthy throughout the various lockdowns. This is another indication of the quality and adaptability of our PE provision during the most challenging of circumstances.

The 'journey' of PESSPA at Burnham on Crouch Primary School continues to evolve. The recognition of achievement underlined by the afPE Quality Mark was a significant point in our timeline, but it also serves to keep us moving forward in order to secure the Distinction level of quality mark.

From the feedback provided by our assessment

- Assessment – The school need to develop the self-assessment and utilisation of it by pupils. The seeds have been sown in lessons by the PE Lead but there is no process formal or informal to make full use of this.
- The Headteacher could use the good practice in PE & SS and that observed from this application in a whole school format. There is some excellent practice as exemplified by external lesson observations this could be beneficial for whole school development. This would at the same time raise the profile of PE & SS within the school.
- Enhance the management of school staff supporting PE & SS. The ongoing support and development of these staff is vital to raising standards further and importantly in ensuring sustainability.

In addition we look to:

- Refine teaching and learning, always looking for advancements within the PE subject area
- Provide a wider offer of extra-curricular activities as the Covid pandemic has an ever decreasing negative impact
- Signpost our children to 'next steps' developments within sport e.g. local football or rugby clubs, ParkRun, in order to further enhance their levels of skill, maintain their participation and maximise their enjoyment of healthy, active lifestyles.

Therefore, the afPE Quality Mark is certainly part of the journey of PESSPA here at Burnham-on-Crouch Primary School, as we strive to refine and improve this provision. This will lead us to renewing our quality mark and ultimately providing the best PESSPA provision for our pupils.

More information about afPE can be found on the following web site:

www.afpe.org.uk