

Beighton Nursery and Infant School – Being a New PE Coordinator During the Pandemic

1. Brief details in terms of context of school and own context

Our mission statement at Beighton NI. is “Learning, Understanding, Achieving”. We are a 3-form entry Nursery Infant School comprising mainly pupils from a white British background. My school have been very supportive in my role as PE lead.

Before taking on this role, I had no prior experience leading PE. My own PE sessions before joining Beighton NI had mainly been taught by external companies, team teaching or PPA. This was my first year in a new school and at the start I had low confidence in teaching even my own lessons due to my prior experience.

2. What were the difficulties and challenges experienced when you first took over?

Middle of the Covid-19 pandemic presented numerous challenges. This caused the constant changeover of staff throughout the year.

Covid-bubbles and periods of pupil and staff isolation also exacerbated my role.

3. What did you prioritise and why?

My first priority was to speak to the Acting Head and temporary PE lead for a handover.

Looked through last year’s Sports Premium Funding Report and worked together through it.

Waited and observed the systems at my new school.

Kept speaking to staff - What did they think of the current scheme of work? Which one were they using? If any.

Looked in the PE cupboard and noticed resources needed ordering.

Met with Helen Stevens. She explained about POINTS LN and we looked at this year’s Sports Premium Funding report. Helen supported me to write this year’s targets. We looked at the yearly overview and we thought about a clear, concise replacement ‘Scheme of Work’ as feedback was that the current scheme wasn’t being used or was unpopular.

We then set about trialling ‘GetSet4PE’ and filled up the PE cupboard with much-needed resources to enhance delivery and remove any potential barriers. I then undertook staff voice to gauge what they thought of the new PE Scheme- they liked it!

Wrote yearly overview for school.

My other main priority was to look at how children could get their 30 minutes of activity per day. Staff highlighted when children are active during the day and in

lessons for their classes. I then looked at break times and lunch times and noticed that children were not as active as they could be and also that the lack of resources in the yard were impacting on this. I decided that resources needed purchasing particularly as a result of covid and the impact of bubbles not being able to share equipment.

In response I bought fun, engaging equipment such as ankle balls, balls, skipping ropes, new balance bikes and helmets. In addition, all classes have forest school time and yard time for active learning. I also supported staff with ideas of how to play games with the children during these periods of play. The impact of this is that children enjoy using the new equipment and are more motivated to get active. High numbers of children are actively playing during every break, a huge improvement on the level of activity that was happening before.

Following the Sheffield and Points LN Skipathon challenge, skipping has taken off in terms of popularity. Children enjoy skipping daily and they try to beat their best score and practice the skills that they have learned during the skipping week.

The profile and importance of regular daily physical has also been raised. Midday supervisors, as well as teachers and Tas, acknowledge active breaks with new stickers and certificates. The 'Active Child of the Week' is acknowledged and celebrated in our weekly assembly emphasising the importance of this.

My Next Priorities are:

Active breaks - resources, certificates, training and activities.

After school clubs- Finding a provider and trying to set it up.

CPD for staff

POINTS LN competitions/ festivals

4. What have you managed to achieve in your first year despite coronavirus

- New Scheme of Work
- Easy assessment and monitoring for staff
- Mock Lesson observations
- Deep Dive into PE
- Fully resourced PE cupboard
- Sports Day
- Termly newsletters
- Staff voice
- CPD for staff x2
- Resources for Active Breaks- children are having really active play times.
- Designed replacement Trim Trail with my colleague
- Updated policy
- Updated website
- Updated noticeboard
- Sharing Physical activity on Twitter

- Active Breaks mentions and certificates in the weekly assembly

5. What would be your top tips for a new PE coordinator starting out?

- Not everything has to be done in a year.
- Look at your curriculum and resources first.
- What is already going well?
- What are your quick fixes?
- Read last year's report and make yourself a 'To Do' list
- Get your school involved - talk to others
- Get support when you need it.
- Ask for time out of lessons to plan.

6. Were there any mistakes you made that you have learned from?

- Taking on too much
- Not asking for time out of lessons to complete these activities- I am getting it next year now I have asked.