

Primary PE, School Sport & Physical Activity- Sheffield Case Study

Name of School	NETHER GREEN INFANT SCHOOL
Area of Focus	Physical Activity & Ensuring 30 Minutes Per Day for All: Physically Active Learning (across the curriculum), Active Interventions, Active Travel, Targeted Groups, Active Environments in school, System for monitoring activity of pupils

Intent: What did you set out to achieve? Why was this needed?

We set out to increase and enhance the opportunities for the children to be active when using the playground. We wanted to make the playground fun and inviting for the children to use, and aimed to make it an independent resource they could creatively interact with, in order to complement the work of the play leader who provided more structured and supported physical activity games.

Our intention was to re-vamp the entire playground, with new playground markings which would enable the children to interact in different and creative ways. We also wanted to choose a design which would allow the markings to be used for playtimes, sports clubs and PE sessions.

Not only had the original markings become worn and not particularly well-utilised, but moreover our playground space is rather small and limited in terms of the physical activities we are able to offer. We therefore felt this project was needed to maximise the opportunity for physical activity in the space we have available. As we don't have several separate onsite facilities/areas for activity, we had rather identified a need to adapt the one area we do have, to become a multi-purpose facility; one which could be creatively used for several different purposes.

Implementation: What did you do and how have you done this?

Given that the playground is the play space of the children, we decided to turn to them with our initial starting point of the design! We held a playground re-vamp competition and invited the children to design a playground of their choice. With so many great design ideas, we decided to choose aspects of several children's choices to complete a finalised design idea. This included concepts such as a bike track, 4 colourful interactive squared areas, court markings and number tracks.

Rather than markings such as a traditional hopscotch for example, we chose to incorporate markings which were much more open-ended and therefore would allow the children to play with them in several different ways. This would also allow the staff to utilise them in different ways too!

The programme was funded partly with the PE and Sport premium but also with our school's PTA funding. Over the summer the job was done, and the markings were applied to the playground, ready for the children's return in September. The surprise on their faces said it all!

Impact: What were the results and how did you know?

The results were instant! From the very first day we saw the children physically interacting with the different playground markings in such wonderfully creative and different ways. All of our staff have commented on how many varied games the children have been seen playing. When we stand back and watch the children during free playtime sessions, the activity levels are very high. From dinosaur egg hunts to Pokemon chase, we have seen a vast array of ways in which the children use the markings. Furthermore, as all of our PE sessions have been outdoors all year, due to crossing bubbles through our hall, the staff have utilised the markings in PE sessions in incredibly resourceful ways. In addition we have been able to enhance and broaden our curriculum offer; from balance bike training, to OAA activities and Sports Day provision. We use the marking for afternoon brain break

activities, and active learning sessions too. External visitors including cricket, gymnastics and tennis coaches have also been able to incorporate the markings into their activities during our taster session workshops. We couldn't have believed how much the marking would be used when we first embarked on the design idea, particularly given the Covid restrictions we have faced recently. We are so pleased with the outcome.

3 Top Tips for Other Schools to Implement Something Similar?

1. Involve the children – their ideas are invaluable and they become part of the process right from the very beginning.
2. Factor in the space you have and the ways in which you want to use that space.
3. Keep the use of the markings fresh and varied with pupil surveys, regular staff CPD and sharing of ideas!

