Further measures to boost PE and school sport

Coaching

Two new sports have been invited to make up the first wave to implement the National Coaching Certificate (NCC). It will be an enhancement of sport-specific qualifications, set against agreed sport-wide criteria that meet the key principles set out by the Coaching Task Force. It will build on good practice that already exists within governing bodies’ coach-education systems and, in particular, will create parity and compatibility within coaching qualifications and across sports, and create a flexible learning system that is open to all. St. Etienne, cricket, running, rugby union, swimming and tennis have also been asked to act as trailblazers to test the new system.

School Playing Fields

President of school playing fields since 1988 has ensured that sales have fallen dramatically. New rules introduced in partnership with the National Playing Fields Association in autumn 2004 tightened these safeguards even further. Authorities can only sell a school playing field if the land is surplus to the needs of other local schools and the community, and all the proceeds must go back to improving schools or school facilities.

Sporting Playgrounds

We are investing £10 million to improve primary school playgrounds that will enhance physical and sporting activities and improve behaviour and attendance. The programme has benefited over 650 primary schools in 27 LEAs.

Building Schools for the Future

DFES and DCMS are working closely with the Big Lottery Fund (formerly known as the New Opportunities Fund and the Community Fund) to ensure that the new PE and school sport facilities they fund are developed. They are complementing the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. BSF will rebuild or refurbish every secondary school in England. Projects will go ahead as soon as possible where they will not be affected by future BSF building work. Where local authorities wish to make their PE and sports projects part of a larger refurbishment package for a school, we are working to ensure that the funding programmes are sufficiently flexible to accommodate this.

Facilities

The New Opportunities for PE and Sport (NOPS) and Space for Sport and the Arts programme are providing over 3,000 schools with better sports facilities. To date, NOPS expenditure stands at over £18 million. The majority of new facilities will be in place by spring 2006.

Building Club Futures Partnership in Birmingham has used their funding from the New Opportunities Fund to move to the Community Sports Co-operative Scheme (CSCS). Working in partnership with Birmingham Sports Partnership they have created a range of posts to provide activities for disabled people and to take fitness levels among young people in the partnership. They will benefit from improved links with clubs through coaches working in both school and club settings, increased flexibility of the workforce, and better training for school staff leading to improved standards of teaching and coaching. The project went live in September 2004 and 1,000 pupils have been targeted in the partnership.

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National Association of Advisers and Lecturers in Physical Education
www.pea.co.uk
Physical Education Association of the United Kingdom

For further information on any part of the PE and Sport Strategy please e-mail sport@dfes@gov.uk

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Learning through PE and Sport

The national PE, School Sport and Club Links (PESCL) strategy was launched on 1 April 2005. Already children in over 500 schools in England are directly benefiting from its school-based activities. The national strategy was published on the 19th June 2005 (www.gov.uk). This leaflet reports back on progress.

The strategy promotes the principal of equality through the delivery of high quality PE and school sport, which naturally includes dance. It strives for a culture that enables and values the full involvement of every young person. By responding to pupils’ diverse learning needs, capabilities and preferences, we are creating an environment in which all children have an entitlement to school sport whether as competitors, volunteers or spectators.

The overall objective is to increase the percentage of 5-10 year olds who spend a minimum of three hours each week on high quality PE and school sport, within and beyond the curriculum, to 75% by 2006. By 2008 the aim is to see this rise to 85% with all children being offered the entitlement. Also by 2008 we want all school sport partnerships – families of schools working together to embed school sport – to be enabling at least 75% of their pupils to take part in their entitlement. Good progress has already being made. The first national survey of 5,330 schools taking part in the programme found that 63% of pupils were spending two hours in a typical high quality PE and school sport.

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The national strategy is being delivered through 6 linked work strands. The remaining work strands are tools that schools can use to help pupils participate in at least two hours a week of high quality PE and school sport.

Next, we are creating 400 school sport partnerships – small clusters which will each receive additional funding, around £23k per partnership to enhance and increase opportunities for sport.

Step one: ‘Sport Help’ helps young people to become involved and valuing sport on a long-term basis. This programme works with schools, LEAs, EACs, County Sports Partnerships, and 16 governing bodies to tide-ordinate cooperation at a local level. For schools that already have an active participation programme, the funding means that they can now also be involved in the development of the National Governing Bodies (NGBs) for school sport. The programme has received a very positive response from schools, teachers and young people.

Step two: ‘Club Link’ works with clubs and communities to help young people to become members of a club and participate in a wide range of sports. The programme is being delivered through a partnership between the RFU and the RFU’s game development service, ‘Young Lions Club’. The RFU is also working with the RFU and the RFU’s game development service, ‘Young Lions Club’.


In total, the programme has been delivered in partnership with 112 Local Authorities across the UK, and has already seen a significant increase in the number of young people participating in sport. The programme is expected to reach more than 2 million young people by the end of the year.

In summary, the National School Sport Partnership is delivering a range of initiatives to support the growth of school sport and to increase the number of young people participating in sport. The programme is expected to reach more than 2 million young people by the end of the year.