Stanford Infant School is a three form entry school in Brighton and Hove catering for students in reception, year 1 and year 2.

Active Sussex Support

Stanford Infant School requested one-to-one support from Active Sussex to discuss the best ways to utilise the Primary PE and Sport Premium (PPSP) effectively and sustainably. The school wanted to ensure their spending was more sustainable than in previous years in order to maximise the impact of the funding.

A meeting was arranged with Active Sussex’s Nick Chellel. The school’s Headteacher, PE Coordinator and a Governor attended.

“Nick joined the Headteacher, the Governor link for PE and me to advise us on ways we could give, and subsequently provide evidence of, maximum impact with our PE and sport funding. Without Nick’s focused support, I could have been wandering in a wilderness of confusion for a long time. He also showed me the PE and Sport impact wheel which is proving to be an excellent and easy to use tool for monitoring progress and demonstrating impact.”

Bridget Slater – PE Coordinator

The PPSP and Health Assessment Wheel

- As part of the meeting Nick introduced the school to the PPSP and Health Assessment Wheel which the school went on to purchase.
- The tool, offered to all primary schools across Sussex, allows users to create a vision for PE, sport and health. It helps schools to establish where they are, where they want to be and offers support on how they can get there.
- Stanford Infants attended a training course on how to utilise the wheel and gained access to the wheel for a year at subsidised cost of £20.
- The wheel assisted with the school’s coverage of PE. They realised that the school was already offering a lot of health based opportunities and initiatives however there were other areas that needed developing.
- Bridget, the PE Coordinator at Stanford Infant School, continues to use the wheel on a termly basis. She is able to celebrate, share and record the success that the school has had whilst setting goals for the next term.

Outcomes

- As a result of the meeting and using the wheel, the school decided to use the PPSP to improve the confidence and competence of PE teaching.
- Nick provided the school with the Active Sussex Primary School Providers Directory that details what providers offer training in this area.

“Nick came into Stanford Infant School to discuss our schools usage of the PPSP. We were hoping for new ideas, some creative inspiration and any insights into what other schools were actively involved with in Sport. We were not disappointed. I was particularly impressed by the level of detail Nick gave us around the opportunities for building on our PE successes so far. There are so many resources and suggestions from Active Sussex that we didn't know were there before we met Nick, so thank you!”

School Governor
The school realised that their PE lesson plans were very varied in terms of quality and did not provide pupils with a consistent approach to PE nor an aligned learning journey from one year to the next. It was also recognised that teachers and support staff lacked confidence and enjoyment when teaching PE.

After research, the school opted to purchase Create Development’s real PE CPD package. Create Development were specifically chosen for the holistic approach to teaching PE their training provides.

real PE provides fun and simple to follow Primary PE schemes of work and support for primary school teachers that give them the confidence and skills to deliver outstanding PE. The schemes of work focus on the development of agility, balance and coordination, healthy competition and cooperative learning.

Bridget Slater, the school’s PE Coordinator, initially attended a whole day training course to be introduced to the real PE philosophy. This was then followed by an in-school whole school INSET for all members of staff.

Create Development also delivered showcase lessons within school so that teachers and teaching assistants could observe a real PE lesson specifically aimed at their year group and ask questions afterwards.

Bridget will soon also be receiving training in observing PE lessons to ensure high quality PE lessons are maintained. Create Development will firstly observe Bridget teaching PE and provide feedback, Bridget will then observe two other school teachers teaching PE and provide feedback whilst being supported by Create Development.

The impact of this CPD was so valued by the school that they decided to enrol onto Create Development’s real legacy package. This package will enable the school to integrate real gym into their curriculum this year with plans to introduce real play next year – a way of engaging families.

“I love teaching PE!”
Year 1 Teacher

Impact

- One of the biggest things to come out of the initial school INSET was the realisation from teachers that PE teaching is not about teaching pupils how to play sports.
- PE at Stanford Infant School is now skill based and teaches pupils across 6 different areas (known as cogs): personal, social, cognitive, creative, physical and health and fitness.
- Teacher confidence and knowledge in teaching PE has improved dramatically and, as a result, so has the enjoyment, engagement, progress and behaviour of the pupils.

The PE display in the school hall featuring the 6 PE ‘cogs’, termly activities, challenges and results.
What do the staff think?

real PE has had a hugely positive impact on me as PE leader at Stanford Infants. The training I had was fun and engaging and I felt confident to help roll out real PE to our staff following our INSET day. The INSET day was absolutely fantastic and many staff felt transformed by the experience. I feel completely supported by Create Development who answer any emails extremely efficiently and we have a link advisor who has been into our school to support me and to showcase lessons to the whole staff. Real PE has changed PE immeasurably; its cohesive, holistic and progressive approach has revolutionised PE at our school.

Bridget Slater (PE Leader)

We had a whole school INSET on real PE and it has transformed PE in the school. There is a clear link between physical literacy in PE and in the classroom. All children and staff feel they can achieve and the new approach challenges and supports every child appropriately. Create Development have enabled us to create and embed a culture of PE, Sport and Physical Activity in our school that will have a positive whole school impact and benefit pupils for years to come.

Madeleine Denyer (Headteacher)

PE is more focused on skills now and to the different cogs, it builds on those skills throughout the year. It’s great to have a hook for the children and engages them instantly. It also makes them enthusiastic and more engaged because they have a purpose and understand why it’s important to practise those skills. It’s more inclusive now that there is clear differentiation and the children enjoy it so much more therefore behaviour is better. I think for my class their skills throughout the year have got a lot better as we have revisited them in different ways. They also love the rewards and even though it’s not competitive the children still like to be motivated to beat the other classes, as do I. I love teaching PE!

Charlotte Ingram (Year 1 Leader)

Before we started real PE, I was always a bit apprehensive about teaching PE, since then I can see that children are engaged and eager to show their learning. After we had the training, real PE injected a sense of fun using songs and themes to feel motivated! It was also great to see how the cogs sit within the sessions; where children can explore a wider range of skills like social, creative and cognitive skills all within the PE framework.

Kristina Wong (Teaching Assistant)

After having real PE training it all made sense! I liked the way in which we now focus upon teaching the children the agility, balance, co-ordination skills that are essential for team sports and games, taught later on. It is progressive and allows for easy differentiation and challenge, where appropriate, for each lesson and builds upon this week to week. I like the fact that it is child-friendly with a story to hook the children into the main focus and has music to accompany it. The clear teaching sequence means that it is essentially stress-free and fun for everyone – staff and children alike.

Lisa (Year 1 Teacher)

real PE has given more of a structure to PE in Reception. It is easy to see the children making progress in their learning and has quickly developed the children’s gross motor skills. It is generally age appropriate and the warm ups are a great ‘hook’ that quickly engage the children. The children love the reward systems and it has really helped developed a team spirit. I feel more confident teaching PE and I think this confidence will increase as we go into the second year of teaching it and revisit lessons for a second time. It is fun and the children are always so enthusiastic!

Kate Gray (Reception Leader)