

# Your Recipe for Success

## Contact Details

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**Partnership Name:** Middlecott School, Kirton

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The National  
Top Up  
Swimming  
Scheme

Case Studies

Please tick the relevant box to indicate which challenge you are sharing

How you are using the specialist status to improve learning and raise standards in your Sports College

How you are using the specialism of PE and sport in the development of your School Sport Partnership

## Your Example of Practice title

National Top Up swimming Programme

## The Challenge

**What did you want to do?** (What problem did you want to address? Please include your attainment figures for KS2 Swimming 25metres )

To address the issue of Year 6 pupils who had so far failed to reach KS2 requirement of swimming 25 metres.

A total of 13 Primary Schools took part in the initiative including one Special Needs School and our target was to get 60% of the pupils through the 25-metre barrier. Each participant was offered the opportunity to receive an intensive programme of up to ten 30 minute lessons over a two-week period, which meant swimming every school day for two full weeks in July 2006.

The results were fantastic and the breakdown of figures were as follows:

Participants : 69 Boys / 69 Girls **TOTAL 138**

KS2 Target : 56 Boys / 61 Girls **TOTAL 117**

Achieved

**OVERALL WE ACHIEVED ALMOST AN 85% SUCCESS RATE WHICH WAS A SUPERB ACHIEVEMENT.**

Year 6 - 25m attainment figures before Top Up Lessons 77%

25m attainment figures after Top Up Lessons 97%

## Meeting the Challenge

**What did you do?** (How did you do it? What strategies have you used?)

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The first part of the initiative was to ensure that we could have adequate swimming pool time at the local Geoff Moulder Leisure pool(Boston). From the outset, the pool provider, Boston Borough Council was sold on the idea of the aims of the programme. This meant for them an enormous amount of rescheduling of school swimming.

All Head teachers in the partnership were written to outlining the scheme and asking if they wanted to commit to the Top Up swimming, 13 schools indicated that they needed the scheme for their year 6 pupils. We asked for and got special dispensation for the John Fielding School Special School (ages 2 -19) to take part. It was agreed that they could send any pupil within the school who they thought that might have a chance of getting to the 25 metre target.

Within the challenge itself there was an even bigger challenge to work out the logistics of implementing the Top-Up Swimming initiative in our Partnership. It was clear from the outset that our biggest obstacle to overcome would be the transport problems that result from the widespread location of the Primary Schools in our rural partnership.

A detailed programme of swimming times for each school was drawn up by two SSCO's after consultation with the staff at the Geoff Moulder Swimming Pool. Each school was allocated a 30 minute slot for swimming, which was to be consistent for the two-week programme. We worked closely with the swimming instructors and the schools to ensure that pupils were targeted correctly and parental consent was obtained for the pupils to participate in the initiative.

The transport issue was overcome by hiring a large 53 seater coach to pick-up pupils from each school on pre-determined routes and at set times. This was supplemented by a minibus from Boston Grammar School, which transported pupils from schools closest to the pool, and this was driven by the SSCO who was responsible for co-ordinating the initiative.

Finally it was essential that the ASA qualified swimming instructors used to deliver the programme were fully committed to the success of the initiative.

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## Impact

**What difference has this made?** (What differences are you seeing in young people e.g. attitude, behaviour, achievement and attainment? What evidence do you have?)

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The obvious difference was the self-confidence shown by the youngsters when they reached their goal and there was a real sense of achievement and pride.

The attitude shown throughout the initiative by all the pupils was excellent and the behaviour impeccable in and out of the pool.

The evidence of the level of attainment was reflected in our final results which showed an 85% success rate but the other 15% also had a sense of achievement by showing an improvement in their own performances.

After the completion of the programme all participants were rewarded with Free swim vouchers which enabled them to go swimming in the school summer holidays.

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**Why did it work?** (What were the critical factors which made this work for you?)

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The support of Boston Borough Council to operate the scheme and reschedule school swimming.

The way the programme was planned in advance taking into account the logistics of organising transport to ensure the pupils arrived at the pool for allotted sessions.

The ongoing co-ordination of the initiative throughout its two-week duration.

The support of the staff accompanying the children to the sessions with constant encouragement offered.

The commitment shown by the ASA qualified swimming instructors who offered constant encouragement but also a firm word to push the youngsters on when needed. The final results merely confirmed the excellent job the instructors did.

Finally, the attitude and application shown by the pupils who surpassed all expectations.

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**Please complete and send to your Regional Top Up Coordinator.**