

Your Recipe for Success

Contact Details

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Partnership Name: Angmering Sports Partnership

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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

To Establish a partnership TOP Up swimming programme for year 6 pupils who could not swim 25M in a recognised stroke.

The Challenge

What did you want to do? (What problem did you want to address?)

Programme needed to run between January and July 2007 and offered to at least 90% of yr 6 pupils who could not swim 25M. It was anticipated that most of the programmes would run after Yr 6 Sats

Findings from questionnaires showed that 592 pupils within our partnership could not swim 25M- this was approximately 24% of the total cohort. From a safety perspective this was quite concerning as a large percentage of the pupils lived near the sea or major rivers (Arun and Adur)

Results indicated a correlation between areas of deprivation and volume of non swimmers –in other words lessons had to be offered within our allocated budget.

A number of schools within the partnership had pools – there was a need to maximise this school pool use along with the four other swimming providers in the area; Inspire Leisure, Aquarena, Wadurs and Steyning Leisure Centre.

Affordable and reliable transport needed to be found as most schools did not have a pool or easy access to the local swimming centres

Lessons needed to be offered (as far as possible) within curriculum time. This gave less opportunity for pupils or parents to say NO!

Lessons were preferred to be offered as 1 hr day for a week i.e a "Crash course" -

Meeting the Challenge

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

1. In October 2006 questionnaires and non swimmer identification sheets were distributed to all schools in the partnership.
2. Returned by the end of Nov 2006
3. Meetings set up with providers to discuss availability of pool time and costs.
4. Preferred model of 1hrs lesson day over 1 week- crash course agreed
5. Budget drawn up for each cluster of schools
6. Transport and pool time arranged for each school
7. Individual Schools and SSSCo's informed of arrangements
8. Pilot school trialled in January 2007
9. Press and other participating schools informed of success
10. programme rolled out to other partnership schools
11. Regular updates provided to press and via Partnership newsletter
12. Individual Heads written to about success of their students
13. Presentation of certificates in school assemblies
14. Evaluation sheets distributed to teachers and pupils
15. Data collated and reported to SE manager

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?)

Amazing ! Smiles all round really ! At the time of writing (16.07.07) the pupil uptake has been 87 % and success rate for swimming 25M 73%. Pupils have thoroughly enjoyed their lessons becoming more confident in the water and making excellent progress. Significant improvements have been made in a short space of time. Teachers have commented how the hours lesson has allowed the children to build up their stamina to swim 25M and notable achievements made from the start to the end of the lesson. Scheduling lessons everyday has built on the success of the previous day and pupils have not had time to "forget" or lose confidence. Individual achievements range from; getting in the water for the first time, pupils putting their face in through to swimming 25M aided and unaided. In my 20years of teaching the Top Up swimming programme has been the most satisfying project to organise and probably the most valuable.

There is a district schools gala held annually, and as a direct result of our SSP taking part in the Top Up programme we added a new race this year called "The Top Up Relay" [deep to shallow] each school select 4 students who were involved with the programme to race. This provided children who would not normally participate in the event a chance to take part, making the competition more inclusive and accessible to pupils of all abilities. Five teams entered, we raced two teams at a time so they could be near the sides of the pool for safety. Over 200 spectators and competitors at the end gave the children a huge round of applause.

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

In a nutshell Top Up swimming has worked because people recognised the value in the programme and all involved were committed to driving and making it happen.

Our partnership had excellent swimming teachers, co-operative swimming providers- particularly Inspire Leisure of Littlehampton Committed and co-operative PLT's , affordable community transport and above all hardworking and determined Top Up swimmers who wanted to succeed.

During one of the week's 8 year 10 students on work experience supported 3 schools. This worked extremely well and interestingly the results from this particular delivery were in the region of 80, everybody gained from the experience.

Please complete and send to your Regional Top Up Coordinator.