



## **Blessed Robert Sutton School Sports Partnership**



The government announced in May 2013 funding to support the delivery of Physical Education (PE) and School Sport in primary schools. Each school with pupils in year groups 1-6 will receive £8000 per annum and £5 per pupil for two years ring fenced to support PE provision.

Through the previous success of the East Staffordshire School Sports Partnership, (hosted at Robert Sutton until funding was removed) the school wished to ensure continued high standards of delivery in primary PE and School Sport and has established the Blessed Robert Sutton Sports Partnership to achieve this.

To date, 18 primary schools have joined the partnership and are receiving a tailored programme of support.

Since September 2013, the partnership has made great strides towards primary school children receiving improved PE and providing increased opportunities for young people to participate in physical activity.

### **So what has the partnership been up to?**

#### **Teaching and PPA cover**

Firstly, the partnership has been able to organise for coaches and Physical Education specialists to go into primary schools and teach PE lessons during curriculum time. This is either done in conjunction with the regular class teacher, who may observe, take notes and team-teach with the coach to increase their knowledge of different activity areas and delivery of PE, or as cover to allow for the teacher to have their PPA time. In addition, the coaches can organise to observe the regular class teacher lead a PE lesson, to provide feedback and advice with how to improve. The Partnership also provides coaches to lead after school clubs in an activity area of the school's choice, which can tie into preparing for any upcoming festivals or fixtures.

We have also supported the coordination of partner agencies who have delivered PPA cover to schools, working with Burton Albion Community Trust, East Staffordshire Borough Council, Progressive Sports and Premier Sports.

#### **Quality Assurance**



As the partnership work with a variety of coaches from different providers, the partnership has built up good relationships with various organisations, to ensure that high quality provision is provided in every partner school. To maintain these high standards, members of the partnership go and observe various coaches to guarantee that each coach is leading an educational experience with intended learning objectives, to ensure that pupils' make progress. Moreover, summer holiday Continual Professional Development (CPD) sessions were provided for the coaches in areas such as gymnastics, disability sport, engaging pupils in PE lessons and assessment in PE.

## **Continual Professional Development**

As well as providing lessons, the partnership is working with the PE co-ordinator at each partner school. CPD sessions, led by sport specific specialists, have been organised in Gymnastics and Netball. These sessions are intended to provide the co-ordinators with additional skills to improve their subject knowledge, which they can pass on to the teachers at their schools. Various other sessions, such as Tennis and Dance are planned for after Christmas, as well as numerous inset opportunities. Sports specialists will visit each school to up-skill members of staff in various activities. Resources and schemes of work have also been purchased and will be distributed to the PE co-ordinators to show their schools.



It is not only the teachers' who are receiving support and guidance from the partnership. Midday Supervisors' have been able to attend workshops to provide them with ideas for what they could do at lunchtimes to increase the physical activity of their pupils'. A virtual competition has been created, where lunchtime leaders will be able to lead a series of short and simple activities which pupils will complete and gain a score. Once the pupils' scores have been recorded, the partnership will collate the scores from each event and compare them with other participating schools within the partnership. The partnership will then be able to work out our Boys and Girls, Gold, Silver and Bronze medallists for each year group in each event across the partnership schools, who will be awarded a prize. This competition has been organised to provide a structure and a framework for lunchtime supervisors to lead various physical activities.

## **Leadership**



With employment becoming ever so competitive, it is crucial that young people develop a range of skills which is vital for career development. Therefore, the partnership provides opportunities for pupils from Robert Sutton and other secondary schools to develop their leadership skills. These pupils are able to enrol on various sports coaching and officiating courses, with the focus being on using these newly acquired skills to go and lead various sessions to primary school children, as well as assisting in partnership events. These pupils are also able to undertake more bespoke courses, such as disability awareness. It is not only secondary school pupils who are able to develop their leadership skills in conjunction with the partnership. Mini Leaders are pupils who have been identified in their primary schools, as pupils who have potential to be good leaders. These pupils are given leadership training and are encouraged to assist in the delivery of inter-school competitions, as well as leading activities to younger pupils' at their schools. Weekly sessions to support the delivery of playground leaders as well as half day leadership training for pupils has taken place in a number of schools.

## **Competitions**

With the government advocating a focus on competition, a primary focus of the partnership is to provide pupils with opportunities to compete in physical activity at various levels of ability. Pupils have been able to participate in numerous events, such as the Key Stage 1 Sports Festival (where 1350 pupils participated), Year 3 & 4 winter sports festivals and



School Sports Association and School Games Competitions in Hi 5 Netball, X-Country, Sportshall Athletics, Boys and Girls Football and Mini Hockey. This has resulted in nearly 500 children taking part in school competition this term.

### **Gifted and Talented**

The partnership also provides opportunities for those pupils at primary schools identified as Gifted and Talented in PE. On 11/11/13, 54 Gifted and Talented young performers arrived at the impressive St George's Park in Burton. Pupils from 8 of the Blessed Robert Sutton Sports Partnership schools had been selected by their teachers to participate in the first of 3 Gifted and Talented sessions.

The pupils, aged between year 1 and 6, undertook a variety of sessions, aimed at developing fundamental multi-skills, and increasing their knowledge of contributing factors to become high level sports performers. Sessions were led by Matt Hancock and Scott Taylor from Burton Albion Community Trust, Steve Smith-Director of Rugby at Burton Rugby Club, and Paul Whitworth, Education Manager at Burton Albion Football Club. The pupils rotated through a circuit of different activities, which all focussed on different skills which can be used in a variety of different sports. This included a Speed, Agility and Quickness (SAQ) station, a movement station where pupils learnt how to attack and defend space in invasion games, and a ball handling station.



The pupils were fortunate to have a discussion with Paul Whitworth, in the Indoor 3G Arena. Paul used his knowledge to educate the pupils in the contributing factors which can help performers to succeed. He spoke about his role at Burton Albion, the development of Sports Science, the importance of warming up, keeping hydrated, and eating the right food groups to understand the effect these factors can have on performance.

Caroline Smith, School Games Organiser said; "As part of our commitment to improving standards in school sport I am delighted that we could offer this Gifted and Talented session for young people. Working in partnership with high quality coaches from local clubs and Burton Albion Community Trust has ensured that the pupils had a positive experience and helped to develop their core skills. I look forward to our next session in the new year".

### **Partnership progress**

Therefore, it is clear that the Blessed Robert Sutton School Sports Partnership has made a fantastic start to the academic year. Thankfully, the work that the partnership has done already has been well received by the partner schools and they are also committed to change. A lot of progress has been made, but there is still a lot of work to be done, to ensure that the partnership continue to make a positive impact in the delivery of PE at primary schools, and to ensure that all pupils are provided with opportunities to not only participate, but compete in a wide range of sports and physical activities.