

Item 10

ii) Sports Provision - update

-----Original Message-----

From: Knight, Rachael
Sent: 19 November 2009 14:32
To: 'info@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk'
Subject: Attention: Leona Smith

Dear Leona,

Thank you for your help during our conversation earlier today.

As discussed, I am working with Southwark's Children's Services and Education scrutiny sub-committee. The committee's councillors would be grateful if the DCSF could clarify what is meant by the provision of "5 hours of high-quality PE and sport per week, in and out of school".

In particular:

- is the expectation that the local authority will ensure 5 hours are provided for every 5-16 year-old?
- to what extent should the hours be provided by schools?;
- and does "access" indicate that the 5 hours of sports activities simply need to be available for the child to opt into within a certain proximity to their school/local area?

Thank you in advance for your help.
Kind regards,

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From: info@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk [mailto:info@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk]

Sent: 25 November 2009 13:28

To: Knight, Rachael

Subject: Case Reference 2009/0098374

Dear Ms Knight

Thank you for your email dated 19 November about physical education (PE) in schools.

PE is a compulsory part of the national curriculum for all pupils aged 5-16 in England. However, the Department cannot stipulate by law how much time schools should devote to PE or any other national curriculum subject - this is a matter for schools to decide.

That said, the Government believes PE is important for children and young people. Work undertaken by the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Authority (QCDA) has shown how placing PE and sport at the heart of a broad and balanced curriculum can improve attendance, behaviour and attainment. PE and sport build self-esteem, teamwork and leadership skills. PE and sport are also important because they can help build an inclusive society, raise levels of participation in sport after pupils leave school, and positively affect the health of the nation.

Back in 2002 only about one in four children aged 5-16 were doing two hours of high quality PE and sport each week. We introduced a strategy in 2003 to address this and now around nine out of every ten pupils are doing the two hours each week. It is our target that everyone who goes to school should be able to take part in up to five hours of high quality PE and sport each week.

You may find the following web site of interest:

www.teachernet.gov.uk/teachingandlearning/subjects/pe/curriculum/

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

Paul Quinn
Public Communications Unit

www.dcsf.gov.uk



From the recommended link:

www.teachernet.gov.uk/teachingandlearning/subjects/pe/curriculum/:

“PE is a National Curriculum foundation subject compulsory at all Key Stages for all pupils. Pupils should learn a variety of activities in accordance with the subject's programme of study, including dance, games and gymnastics at Key Stage 1. During Key Stages 2 to 4, teachers must offer two other areas from: swimming and water safety, athletics and outdoor and adventurous activities.

Swimming and water safety is a statutory activity at Key Stage 2 in order that pupils achieve the teaching requirements outlined in the programme of study, unless already done so at Key Stage 1. Pupils should be able to swim unaided over a distance of at least 25 metres.

The DCSF/QCA recommends at least 75 minutes of curriculum time per week to deliver the PE programme of study at Key Stages 1 to 2 and 90 minutes at Key Stage 3. No recommendation is made for Key Stage 4 where the focus is on health, fitness and well-being.”