

Riverside Primary School: Upskilling Staff

Background and rationale

Riverside Primary School is a large, 3 form entry primary school in the centre of Hereford.

Having taken over the role of PE coordinator in Sept 2022, I wanted to continue our journey in up-skilling staff and ensuring all teaching staff are confident and competent in delivering high quality PE for our children.

We already employ an internal sports coach and this has proven to be a real positive for our ongoing PE CPD.

What did you do and how did you do it

Feedback from staff highlighted requests for specific PE based CPD e.g. dance, gym, ECTs.

We were also keen to increase and diversify our curriculum offering and have been able to work with a range of external coaches to deliver cheerleading, fencing, water polo, squash, cricket etc. for the children.

This has been delivered in a way that supports staff CPD so it can have a lasting impact for our children and staff.

Key areas were identified by individual staff and year groups based on staff need, curriculum objectives and children's interests.

PE and Sports Premium funding was further utilised to provide specialist support and CPD for staff. This includes support from Stride Active in terms of CPD for myself as PE coordinator (new to role) for our sports coach and for ECTs (currently 4 in school).

This CPD was disseminated to colleagues e.g. orienteering, active learning etc.

We also provided specialist dance training for all teachers and playground leader training for our playground buddies. Our young sports leaders have also benefited from internal CPD.

Teacher Feedback

"[The training] took away the fear associated with dance. I often felt like I needed to choreograph a whole dance. Realising that a dance doesn't need to be a start-stop process and actually children will pick it up as you go along. This has allowed for smoother PE lessons" - Dance training

"[The training gave me] lots of ideas which are used in lessons" - PE for those in their first years of teaching training

The Impact

Feedback from staff and children shows that the CPD has had a positive impact on knowledge & confidence levels.

We have been able to utilise knowledge and resources gained from CPD and these will be used to support the ongoing delivery of high quality PE lessons.

An additional benefit has been to introduce the children to sports and activities that they had not previously tried and we have been able to make links with external providers and signpost children and their families to these opportunities (often with incentives such as free trial sessions for our pupils).

Feedback has been positive and shows that targeting our funding in this area will lead to ongoing impact.

Sustainability

Our aim has been to ensure the CPD has a long term impact and has been tailored specifically to our school needs.

We have collated a bank of resources and encouraged staff to share their knowledge and resources with colleagues so these are embedded in the ongoing delivery of high quality PE lessons. This includes maintaining links with external providers to ensure we can keep up to date with current best practice, access ongoing expertise and offer further opportunities to our staff and children.

We have also worked with some of the providers to deliver additional after school clubs and enrichment opportunities based on the children's feedback. We regularly signpost opportunities such as off site clubs linked to the activities and CPD that has taken place in school. We even have staff who have joined a dance group following their CPD.