

Introducing competitive sports

Steiner Academy Hereford

The Steiner Academy is an all through school. In the younger classes games are always introduced with a story so that the physical activity has an imaginative focus. At class 5 and 6, running, jumping, discus and javelin are introduced alongside ball games with rules tailored to the age group.

From Class 7 to Class 10, there is a more formal games programme, which introduces the pupils to a broad range of activities including: hockey, badminton, swimming, volleyball, basketball, athletics and gymnastics.



WHY

While the school has excellent facilities for children's free play at break times and lunchtimes and games teaching develops strong fundamental non-competitive team games for younger children, there was limited exposure to structured team sports such as football and this resulted in frustration and reduced engagement in Games as pupils passed on to secondary school age in our school.

WHAT

There were a number of different things that we did:

- Our Games and PE lead teacher began to introduce elements of more competitive sports earlier and began to engage more with other schools through the School Games and Stride Active activities and events.
- New sports clubs were offered and promoted widely for pupils of all ages. Some of the clubs on offer included: gymnastics, street dance, archery
- Key Stage 2 Saturday sports club to introduce children to structured sports e.g. basketball and football;
- We developed our swimming programme to secure higher numbers of swimmers with strong competency;
- We created a holiday games club

IMPACT

- The engagement of the pupils in games and sports has increased sharply. The attendance to the new sports clubs is high.
- There is growing participation in the competitive sports events against other schools from our pupils and as a consequence engagement in school games lessons has risen sharply and the level of disengagement in Games has dropped significantly.