



St Luke's C of E (aided) Primary School, Wolverhampton

Key Indicator: Upskilling Staff

Background Information and Context

The National Curriculum (2014) for Physical Education states that pupils should be taught to 'swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres'. St Luke's Sports Premium funding is not spent on swimming lessons; however, the value of using this money to upskill staff within swimming has had an excellent impact on the children's Physical Education, whilst proving to be a sustainable model within our school.

After conducting a swimming survey within our school, findings showed that approximately 80% of the children who attend St Luke's are currently not involved in outside school swimming lessons. Therefore, it is not only important to teach swimming as a National Curriculum expectation but it is paramount to us as a school to provide the vital skills needed to swim and possibly save lives.

In 2015, we moved from one swimming provider to another. The groups were larger and there was only one swimming teacher available to teach all 30 children per class. We realised that this was not having the impact needed to push our children to where they were required to be by the end of Year 6, so the staff at St Luke's offered to assist the Swimming Instructor in any way possible. Even so, without the skills or knowledge, the quality of the swimming was not having a profound affect.

What action did they take?

Having received an email from Wolverhampton PASS Team asking members of staff to complete the ASA Level 1 Swimming Qualification, we knew that this would be the perfect CPD to make a positive impact on the children's Physical Education. The two-day training course conducted at Westcroft School by Helen Bourton and Paul Lord was outstanding. Staff

members were trained in a friendly and comfortable environment and given all the theoretical information and practical skills in order to feel confident to teach a swimming group. In addition, staff were given access to resources and received ideas on how to make swimming enjoyable, educational and active for the children.

To date, we have 8 members of staff (teachers and support staff) qualified to teach swimming. We aim to have an additional 3 qualified by the end of the year.

Following the training, an effective swimming system was developed at St Luke's. All children from Year 2 - Year 6 swim for a full term. Currently children from Year 5 swim for two terms, however, this model will change this year (please see below for further information). Children in swimming lessons are placed into groups according to their swimming ability, however, children can be moved within a lesson so they are not confined to one group.

A typical 30/40 minute swimming session would consist of the following:

- 2 members of St Luke's staff in the water teaching groups.
- 2 members of St Luke's staff on the poolside - marking off water safety/swimming targets/leading a group/supporting a member of staff with a group.
- A Swimming Instructor – teaching a group.

Due to the high-quality training they have received, staff at St Luke's are flexible and confident to teach all ability groups.

What was the Impact?

Each term, the year group teachers track swimming results (distances and stage skills), this data is

subsequently passed onto the next teacher where target children are identified. Staff are confident and competent to teach and assess children in swimming.

Cohort	Number in Cohort (Yr5/Yr6)	25m+ (Yr5)	25m+ (Yr6)
2015/16	60/60	20%	56.7%
2016/17	61/58	55.7%	65.5%
2017/18	61/61	41%	62.3% (TBC)

Above shows a copy of the Year 6 data. Since Sports Premium Funding was introduced and staff had become trained, there was a significant increase in Year 6 children achieving 25 metres or more. Each year shows an increase from children achieving 25 metres or above since their previous year (2015/16: 36.7%, 2016/17: 9.8%, 2017/18: 21.3%).

“ When I first started swimming at school, I was too scared to get into the pool. I now have my 10 metres and I finally feel confident in the water. ”

Year 5 Pupil

We are constantly measuring the impact that we have on the children at St Luke's, and due to a lower percentage this year, we have adapted our swimming timetable so that Year 6 spend an additional 6 weeks swimming in the summer term.

During this time, we will target and intervene specific children giving them the opportunity to improve their swimming. In addition to this, Year 6 children will be targeted in performing safe self-rescue associated with water safety. This way, we can hope to raise the number of Year 6 children achieving 25%+ and in additional, educate the children even further on water safety.

“ Taking kids swimming as part of the school curriculum for me as a parent is really important as children are getting to learn and important life skill. Also, as swimming has many other benefits such as social and physical development, this makes me feel as a parent that children should be entitled to good quality swimming lessons on a regular basis ”

Parent

Sustainability

After funding is no longer provided, our effective model of teaching swimming will still be sustained. Staff at St Luke's have embedded good quality teaching of swimming successfully into the curriculum; it is part of the school routine.

“ As PE and School Sport Lead at St Luke's, I couldn't feel more proud of our staff for the passion they put into teaching swimming and of the children for always responding so enthusiastically. All staff recognise the importance of swimming, and actively want to improve their practise in order to help our children succeed – for this reason, I know this is a sustainable model ”

PE Lead

In 10 years' time, our teachers will still be teaching swimming based on the skills that they learnt on their ASA Level 1 accreditation course and demonstrating best practise to other members of staff who have not completed the course so that they can support our pupils to the best of their ability.

Due to upskilling staff through the Sports Premium Funding, each academic year we as a school aim to see an increase in the number of children achieving 25 metres or more. If we do not see this, then we will adapt our system as we have the skills and knowledge to do so

“ As a school, we value the importance of teaching swimming as an integral part of the curriculum. This is evident as children from Year 2 – Year 6 have the opportunity to go swimming each year. We ensure that children do not just have the opportunity to reach 25 metres, they will then go on to learn lifesaving skills. Without our staff being upskilled in swimming, all of this would be hard to achieve. ”

Headteacher

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