

Grange Park Primary School

Physical activity & health enhancing initiatives
(Increased participation in competitive sport)

THE STARTING POINT

Grange Park had four key points they wanted to work on to increase activity levels of the pupils during the 2017/18 academic year:

- (1) To identify pupils that had not previously represented the school in a sports team and to find out why this was the case. Every year the statistics regarding participation have been improving but there were still some children that were hesitant to take part in sports competitions.
- (2) To set themselves the task of not just improving girl's football at Grange Park, but to improve the standard and participation levels of girl's football across Telford & Wrekin.
- (3) To ensure local secondary schools were aware if any Grange Park gifted and talented in sports children would be joining their schools the following year. In the past, the school felt that they had not communicated enough with secondary schools and that some schools might miss out on seeing a certain child's sporting talent.
- (4) Grange Park wanted to know why children had turned down the chance to represent the school in certain competitions.

ACTION TAKEN

(1) At the start of the 2017/18 academic year, Grange Park looked at their pupils' level of participation across all areas of competitive sport and discovered that they had already increased the number of KS2 children taking part in competitive sport from 69 in 2015/16 to 167 taking part in 2016/17. Although happy with this increase, they wanted to get every child in KS2 to represent a Grange Park sports team. After 2 terms in 2017/18, already 162 children have represented a Grange Park sports team. This year they also kept track of children that were invited to represent a team but declined. This supported them with their fourth action point.

(2) Grange Park first realised their girls were keen to play football during the FA girl's football week in 2015. They held a girl's only football session and had girls attend that had not shown an interest at joining the after-school club or playing football at dinner times in the past. The girls explained this was because the boys dominated the sessions and would not pass to them. On the back of the feedback, Grange Park set up a girl's only after-school football club. The interest in girls football has increased since and their standard has improved massively with the girls winning many competitions and reaching County Finals. Grange Park wanted to offer girls across Telford & Wrekin the chance to be part of a football team, so set up a Year 3/4 & 5/6 girls football league. These have been extremely successful and they are hoping to invite more schools to enter the leagues next year.

(3) Relevant staff at Grange Park have close links with P.E teachers at local secondary schools and regularly have conversations with them about how their former students are getting on with sport at their new school. Conversations are also had in the summer holidays to help the secondary schools identify gifted and talented sports children from Grange Park that will be joining their schools. Grange Park are looking to continue increasing these links with local secondary schools.

(4) Grange Park spoke to pupils that had declined to represent a school team so far during 2017/18 and asked their reasons why. Nearly every child responded stating they were a bit scared to try new sports and thought they would not be very good and did not want to let the school down. Grange Park now organise training sessions related to upcoming competitions so that pupils get the opportunity to try the sport and gain confidence playing it. So far they have successfully trialled this approach with Tri Golf and Tennis and the children that attended the practice sessions have now represented the school in a competition.

Grange Park work closely with local clubs to try and get their pupils to continue with activities and sport outside of school. They have links to local clubs on their school P.E blog and regularly invite clubs in to run trial sessions and assemblies.

IMPACT ACHIEVED

Grange Park predict that they will have over 250 children represent a school sports team in a competitive match or tournament by the end of the 2017/18 academic year.

They have been able to increase their participation numbers but also remain competitive and give their gifted and talented children the platform to show their talents. In order to support their gifted and talented pupils Grange Park hold trials for their school football and athletics teams. They are fully aware that not all children competing are of the same standard, but with regards to football they have ensured that they give every child that attended the trials a chance to play in a competitive match in accordance to their ability. Over 100 children attended the school's football team trials this year and already every child has played in at least one competitive match against another school. Grange Park recently had six pupils selected to represent the Telford & Wrekin District boys and girls football teams for the regional finals at St Georges Park.

Their girls football teams have improved greatly over the last two years with the Year 5/6 girls having already won the league and the Telford & Wrekin cup final, and their Year 3/4 girls' team also making it to the Telford & Wrekin cup final. The leagues Grange Park have organised have been a great success with current and new schools keen for it to continue.

The following link will take you to Grange Park's P.E blog which is used to update parents and for pupils to look back at their participation for Grange Park: www.gppe.primaryblogger.co.uk

"At Grange Park we are lucky to have such a committed and supportive team of staff, who support school sport and physical education. This is both during curriculum time and through extra-curricular activities, often done in staff members own time without additional pay.

The children are always proud to represent their school, which is always celebrated during assemblies. Undoubtedly, this has helped to improve children's self-esteem and behaviour at the same time as developing a strong and positive ethos at Grange Park. The opportunities the children have been provided with has been nothing short of amazing; the challenge now is to keep this going and get children involved in sport and physical activity outside of school."

Mr Thorpe - Head Teacher



"Grange Park and Mr. James in particular I believe has led the way in developing and inspiring girls football within the Telford area. Grange Park, having for a long time had a great reputation locally for developing really good footballers in the boys game, having much success in regional competitions. Mr. James however, is an innovator in his field and has successfully managed to develop this same level of success, enthusiasm, and fun into the girls game. Many, if not all of the girls who now actively take part regularly in football training and matches had never kicked a football or had any interest in the sport prior to this. The school tries to provide every child in the school an opportunity to take part in activities and challenge themselves to lead healthier lifestyles, take regular exercise, and develop team bonding, teamwork, and leadership skills, and for this they should be commended."

Mr Cooke - Year 4 Parent