

School Sport Partnership Case Study

Brookfield School Sport Partnership, Knowsley, Merseyside

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About the partnership

Brookfield School Sport Partnership is in the Knowsley area of Merseyside. At the time of the project described in this case study; the partnership was made up of 9 secondary schools, 42 primaries and 3 special schools. In September 2005 a second partnership was established in the LEA and the Brookfield Partnership was reconfigured to include 6 secondary schools, 30 primaries and 2 special schools.

All of the schools are in an area of high socio-economic deprivation, with housing estates built as overspill for post-war Liverpool. Ninety-eight per cent of pupils are white. Many are experiencing the stresses associated with falling rolls and budget cuts. Brookfield High School, the hub site, was Lancashire's first comprehensive school and became a specialist sports college in 1998. Ofsted has praised its excellent range of extra-curricular opportunities and its first-class relationships with partner institutions.

What was the objective of this project?

- To enhance communication throughout the partnership.
- To create a central calendar control point.
- To develop curriculum resources and to enhance delivery.

What was the situation before the project?

Before this project began, communication throughout the school network was difficult. Information was often arriving with teachers late. There was no formal communication links with community providers. There were numerous calendars for various events, which often created clashes; dates could be changed but the message would not always get through. There was a real lack of good visual resources that could be used as a standard bench mark. Few links were in place between ICT and PE.

What did the partnership do?

Once the partnership decided to use Sportplan, the PDM trialled the website over 12 months with a few schools to learn about the network opportunities and how the site operates. Access to the site was

paid directly by the PDM. During this period the PDM worked with the LEA to encourage all schools in year two to sign up to the website. Schools used the 'E Learning Credits' (ELC's) to do this. Now Sportplan sits on the LEA website access point as one of a number of curriculum support websites.

Each school is grouped on the network firstly by partnership and then by family group. In addition to the schools are the sports development team and other community providers. The network of users can be added to at any time. All registered users can communicate with each via the internal mail system.

Sportplan created the 'Knowsley Diary'; this is an online calendar that contains all dates relating to anything to do with PESS in Knowsley. All users can access this and add dates. The curriculum resources are being slowly built up in the overall Knowsley resource folder. All schools can access this folder as well as creating their own. This process is being supported by GTP students as part of their professional development.

What difference did the project make?

- Each school is part of a virtual PE network which strengthens the ever growing physical network.
- There is now a central control point that everyone can access for all activities relating to PESS in Knowsley, which reduces and hopefully eliminates clashes.
- Greater PE and ICT links are being made in schools.
- Confidence and creativity is improving within the delivery of the activities housed on Sportplan.

Future development work.

- Continue with the delivery of Sportplan inset.
- Build up the curriculum resources.
- Insist that all dates be placed on Sportplan.
- Encourage greater use of the internal mail system by all schools.

Further information.

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