

Pupil Engagement at Stanningley Primary School

Stanningley Primary School have always played a full part in the Leeds West Academy (LWA) sports partnership. This was established in 2013 as a result of the 'Primary PE and Sport Premium' funds. The aims of the partnership are to develop and upskill primary teachers in their delivery of PE and also to increase sports participation amongst the children.

Stanningley is a school which recognises and promotes the benefits of engaging children in physical activity. This is clearly evident by their total commitment to attending every event that takes place as part of the LWA partnership. Last year (2014-15) children from Stanningley attended 24 events, covering 13 different sports which catered for Yrs 1-6. In addition 26 of their pupils attended sports holiday clubs throughout the year. This year their participation levels are on course to meet if not exceed this level. Where competitions run over a number of nights, Stanningley often bring different pupils on each night in order to allow as many children as possible to take part.

It is not just the number of children that take part in the events which is impressive, it is also the way in which they engage the pupils who aren't the typically 'sporty' children. For example, as a result of a taster session on inclusive sports, Stanningley purchased some Boccia, Goalball, Tri-golf and 'New-Age Kurling' equipment. These sports have proved very effective at engaging those 'hard to reach' children and they now run a very successful multi-sports club which is mainly attended by 'non-sporty' children. This club also includes children who have a disability and it's a great way of children learning to work cooperatively and to support each other.

Staff at Stanningley are very pro-active and will always go the 'extra mile' to facilitate participation in sports events and clubs. For example, a table tennis and rock climbing club is held at LWA at the request of Stanningley as they had identified these sports as new opportunities to engage some of their pupils. This is facilitated by support staff walking the children to LWA and staying throughout the sessions. Sports participation is very much a whole school focus that is bought into by the staff members there.

As well as engaging with the local LWA offer, Stanningley also participate fully in the 'Active Schools' programme across Leeds. From a competitive viewpoint they enjoy some success in events, but the focus is predominately on enjoyment, taking part and working as a team. It is this ethos which encourages children of all ages and abilities to engage in physical activity at the school.

Paul Anderson

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