



Background

St. Leonards CEP Academy is a 2 form entry primary academy based within the Hastings and Rother School Games Partnership (HRS GP). The academy's current Headteacher began in post in 2013 when it was in Special Measures.

In 2014, the academy utilised some of its Primary PE and Sports Premium (PPSP) to employ a sports coach. The coach was soon employed full time in 2015 and now teaches PE, delivers extra-curricular sports clubs and is the PE Coordinator.

“Leaders use the sports funding very well. Pupils benefit from a very wide range of sporting clubs and activities, such as golf and football. These activities develop pupils’ skills and also contribute significantly to their sense of achievement. Pupils have enjoyed considerable success in local competitive events and are rightly proud of their gold sports award. Leaders are reviewing their plans to ensure that improvements to physical education and sport are sustainable.”
OFSTED, 2017

Aim 1: Improve pupil engagement and attendance at school and in PE, sport and physical activity.

- In 2013 the academy offered just 1 extracurricular sports club.
- A school council was created and led the decision making regarding which extra clubs should be offered at school to ensure choices were pupil led.
- The academy now offers a total of 11 sport clubs each week, delivered by their PE Coordinator and external agencies including: HKA Kickboxing, SAMA Karate, Pass+Move Football and Sean Creasey Golf (Cooden Beach).
- Many pupils were still reluctant to join school sports clubs so other clubs in topics of interest such as sewing were established to entice pupils to attend and to demonstrate what enjoyment can be had in extracurricular provision.
- Many of these pupils have now migrated to extracurricular sports clubs.
- Pupils are made aware that they have to be attending school regularly in order to represent their school in sporting competitions.
- Pupils that fall into the Persistent Absence category are supported on an individual basis; the Sports Coach meets with both parents and pupils and sets bespoke targets that must be met. These are non-negotiable and commitment is required both within class and at clubs.



Impact

- Pupils with a minor illness who would normally stay at home began to attend every day.
- In one example, a pupil with particularly low attendance was told he would make a school team but had to attend school every day – they missed just one further day for the rest of the school year!

Attendance difference (since 2014/15)

2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
+0.53%	+0.60%	+0.79%	+1.73%

Aim 2: Engage the least active

- PPG, EAL and SEND pupil attendance at clubs is monitored and, during 2017/18, interventions were put into place to increase the percentage of these pupils engaging in clubs.
- A before-school sensory circuit club was established targeting pupils with SEND.
- A forest school club is offered to EAL pupils where English is taught discreetly alongside orienteering to increase physical activity.
- Some clubs are offered on an invite only basis and target a specific group of pupils with the club offering an activity they enjoy.



- A personal challenge club was set up to encourage less active pupils into more frequent activity where they are their only competition.
- Weekly physical challenges, such as skipping, are now commonplace across the school. Pupils are given a specific challenge to practice and will attempt to better their score and see what PB they can achieve.

- Personal challenges have now become an important part of academy life and are practised during break times, clubs, PE lessons and, crucially, now at home as well.

Impact

- Extracurricular club attendance for:
- PPG pupils rose from 55% to 77% over the year
- EAL pupils rose from 34% to 51% over the year
- SEND pupils rose from 36% to 71% over the year

Whole school impact

- In March 2015, St. Leonards CEP Academy moved out of Special Measures. The Headteacher explains that “the use of PE and sport at the school was a key element of this.”
- One parent commented: ‘I have seen a big change since the Headteacher joined the school and I think the school should be celebrating the amazing things it does.’

Improved behaviour

- “Historically behaviour has been poor and fixed term exclusions high. We have engaged our most challenging pupils in sporting activity and personal challenges. Teaching teamwork, sporting values and resilience through sport. The children know that they have to make positive behaviour choices to be able to represent the school at sporting events. We have had no fixed term exclusions in nearly two years.”

Headteacher, 2018

“Records show that there has been a sustained and notable reduction in incidents of poor behaviour and exclusions.” **OFSTED, 2017**

Improved results

- A correlation has now emerged between pupils engaged with sport at the academy and end of key stage results.
- 40% of year 6 pupils represented the school at sports competitions during 2017/18. Of these pupils:
 - 92% achieved ARE in one area
 - 78% achieved ARE combined
 - 39% achieved greater depth

KS2 SATs results - pupils achieving ARE (Difference since 2016)

	2017	2018
Reading	+5.2%	+42.0%
Writing	-3.7%	+3.8%
Maths	-2.7%	+14.6%
GPS	+5.9%	+20.4%
Combined	+8.0%	+47.5%

“Pupils’ readiness to learn has increased, as well as their resilience and self-confidence.” **OFSTED, 2017**

What's next?

- A big focus this year is to improve staff confidence and competence in teaching PE. All staff were audited at the beginning of the year and the PE Coordinator will team teach PE lessons with staff in areas they require.
- The success of the personal challenges last year has led to the school developing a new reward system in a further step to reduce inactivity.
- To encourage physical activity to become a habit in their pupils, the school are developing an idea to reward pupils for completing consecutive weekly activity challenges.
- Pupils will achieve a bronze, silver or gold award depending on how long they continue to participate in the challenges.
- Pupils will also be encouraged to participate at home so the school knows that physical activity is continuing beyond the school day.
- Swimming is another focus this year with the updated guidance on the PPSP spending triggering this.
- The school will ensure that all year 6 pupils leave school having at least met the National Curriculum expectations.
- All pupils in year 5 access swimming lessons each year, additional lessons will now also be provided for year 6 pupils who haven't yet met National Curriculum requirements.

- These additional sessions will come in the form of an intensive week-long courses as suggested by Swim England.
- The school will look at ways of joining other schools to provide this in order to reduce/share costs for travel and pool hire.



- The concept of Balanceability was introduced to the school through Hastings and Rother School Games Partnership training last year.
- The school purchased equipment that the PE Coordinator utilised with pupils in EYFS. The programme was a success, gaining the interest of pupils in physical activity at a young age.
- The school will now utilise Sustrans to run a morning Bike-it club and train further school staff to run additional Balanceability sessions.

- The school has been offering a holiday club for pupils out of term time to promote activity when not at school. PPG pupils were funded for these clubs.
- Initially these clubs were mainly sport based but have since been redesigned to include such things as cooking in order to become more appealing to less active pupils.
- To enhance this further, there are plans to also offer an athletics academy during the holidays specifically aimed at gifted and talented pupils.

Contact

Several members of the academy staff, including the Headteacher and PE coordinator, have very active twitter accounts – a way of celebrating good news stories and improving parent engagement and relations:

[@StLensHead](#)
[@StLensSport](#)

Their personal challenge initiative also featured in a National Innovation Award video for the Hastings and Rother School Games Organiser, Teresa Bennett. [Watch it here.](#)

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