QUALITY MARK IN PRACTICE

ST ANNE'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Katie Burgoyne

St Anne's Church of England Primary School is a one-form entry school in Nottinghamshire. Our vision is to develop the whole child spiritually, mentally and physically. I have been the PE Lead for the past six years and, during that time, we have worked hard to ensure that physical education (PE) and physical activity are valued as an integral part of school life rather than simply another curriculum subject. Receiving the afPE Quality Mark has been a wonderful recognition of our long-term commitment to providing high-quality PE and promoting healthy, active lifestyles. Rather than celebrating one initiative or project, the award reflects the culture we have developed across our school, where physical activity supports learning, wellbeing and personal development. Pursuing the Quality Mark also provided an invaluable opportunity to celebrate our successes while reflecting on our practice and identifying areas for further development.

At St Anne's, we recognise the important role that PE plays in promoting both physical and emotional wellbeing. We believe that PE, when delivered in a safe, supportive and inclusive environment, enables every child to achieve their potential regardless of ability. Our aim is to provide high-quality teaching and learning that inspires children to enjoy being active, develop lifelong skills and build positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles. Alongside developing sporting competence, we place equal importance on teaching children essential life skills. We want every child to leave our school able to swim confidently and safely, work collaboratively within a team, understand fairness and respect, and demonstrate resilience when faced with challenge. These values align closely with our Christian ethos, providing opportunities for pupils to demonstrate perseverance, responsibility, forgiveness, acceptance, honesty and respect both within PE lessons and beyond.

At the heart of our success is a broad, balanced and carefully sequenced PE curriculum that allows pupils to revisit and build upon previously learned knowledge and skills. Learning progresses from Reception through to Year 6, beginning with a strong emphasis on fundamental movement skills and gymnastics in the Early Years. By establishing these foundations, pupils develop the physical literacy needed to access increasingly complex sports-specific skills and tactics as they move through Key Stage 2.

We firmly believe that developing these fundamental skills is essential if children are to remain physically active throughout their lives. At the same time, exposing pupils to a wide range of activities helps them to discover sports and physical pursuits they enjoy, increasing the likelihood that they will continue participating beyond primary school.

Our curriculum is complemented by a rich programme of enrichment opportunities. As members of the Bassetlaw School Games, we regularly participate in festivals and competitions throughout the year. These events provide pupils with opportunities to experience a diverse range of sports while learning valuable lessons about teamwork, resilience, winning and losing graciously, and representing their school with pride.





Importantly, these opportunities are open to all pupils regardless of ability or additional need, ensuring that every child has the chance to experience competitive sport and personal success. Inclusion remains central to everything we do. PE lessons are carefully adapted so that all pupils can access learning and experience achievement.
For children requiring additional support, targeted interventions, such as FunFit and Heavy Muscle Work, help to develop strength, coordination and confidence while removing barriers to participation. This commitment to inclusive practice has enabled more pupils, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), to engage fully in PE and wider sporting opportunities.

Leadership has also played a significant role in the development of PE at St Anne's. Supporting colleagues through coaching, mentoring and high-quality planning has increased staff confidence in delivering engaging and inclusive PE lessons. Staff voice has been central to this process. For example, when colleagues identified dance as an area where they required further support, we organised a twilight professional development session that has transformed confidence across the staff team. Dance is now recognised as one of our strengths within the curriculum. Developing physical activity has also become a whole-school priority rather than the responsibility of one subject leader. Initiatives such as active travel, active lunchtimes, movement breaks and the Daily Mile encourage both pupils and staff to incorporate regular physical activity into everyday school life. Embedding these approaches across the school has helped to create a culture where being active is simply part of each day.

The impact of our provision is evident across the school. Participation in competitive events and extra-curricular opportunities continues to grow, with increasing involvement from girls and pupils with SEND. Pupil voice consistently demonstrates the enjoyment, confidence and sense of belonging that PE provides, with many children describing PE as one of their favourite parts of the school week. Staff confidence has also increased significantly through targeted professional development, leading to consistently high-quality teaching across all year groups. Our success in School Games events, alongside the increasing number of opportunities for pupils to develop leadership skills, further demonstrates the positive impact of our approach. More importantly, we see children who are willing to challenge themselves, support others and enjoy being physically active – qualities that extend far beyond the sports field.

Looking ahead, our priority is to maintain the high quality of our PE provision despite the uncertainty surrounding the future of the Primary PE and Sport Premium funding. We are already working closely with our School Games Organiser to develop more sustainable and cost-effective ways of delivering festivals and competitions. We also plan to expand our sports leader programme, enabling pupils to organise and lead intra-school competitions while further developing their leadership, communication and organisational skills.

An exciting new chapter has also begun as St Anne's joined the MITRE Trust in July. This partnership provides valuable opportunities to collaborate with colleagues, share best practice and continue developing our PE provision. As PE Lead, I look forward to learning from others across the Trust while continuing to strengthen opportunities for every child at St Anne's. Although we are proud to have achieved the afPE Quality Mark, we see it not as the end of our journey, but as motivation to continue providing inclusive, inspiring and high-quality PE for all. ■

Katie Burgoyne is a Year 3 teacher and PE and Science Lead at St Anne's Church of England Primary School in Nottinghamshire.