

## **Primary PE & Sport Premium Responses (3)**

### **National School Sports Strategy (2000-2011)**

1. Thank you at long last to one organisation who has chosen to investigate School Sports Funding, and yet it comes from an organisation that is concerned essentially with early years education. Your website though has attracted a lot of interest within our region within School Sport circles.

The articles posted on your website regarding the former National School Sports Strategy reveal at long last what I believed were practices occurring within a School Sports Partnership whom I worked for in a neighbouring local education authority. How the host Secondary School managed to get awarded Sportsmark year after year with barely any intra-competition and after-school clubs occurring and data plucked from the air, still beggars belief. I was a School Sports Co-ordinator at the time but the Partnership Development Manager always insisted in handling and inputting the annual PESSYP figures for the school concerned. Now I know why.

2. As a former Partnership Development Manager, I had to attend the annual PDM Conferences at Telford. I was shocked to learn of the many examples of malpractice that I heard from fellow colleagues who were working in other parts of the country. Fabrication of invoices to enable purchase of valuable items for personal use; inflating the records of pupil participation and sometimes just even making up the data, especially for underperforming schools. Whilst I chose to ignore such tactics, it really disappointed me that Youth Sport Trust regional officers were not inspecting those Partnerships who were keen to cheat the system. In some ways, I'm glad that the whole strategy came to an eventual close even though it put me out of work for six months afterwards.
3. After years of dedicating myself to school sports as a School Sports Co-ordinator then School Games Organiser, I've thrown in the towel to move into part-time teaching. I got so fed up having to continually fiddle the figures as I was forced to within end of year PESSYP questionnaires –

as an example, hands-up surveys to data collections were always exploited. We had a stack of funding left over that should've been returned to DfE that was pocketed between PDMs and Host Sport Colleges – we found out in the last week of the job however we were told to keep quiet as it would affect our references. In hindsight, everything was based upon trust without any real effort to investigate finances. I know that this happened in other Partnerships – other SSCOs had previously fed back similar experiences at regional meets but had to keep quiet for fear of losing their jobs.

My time spent as a School Games Organiser fared little better in terms of having to inflate performance data – those schools who were registered and due to attend events but didn't were still rolled into the end of year data. We had our arms twisted to promote REAL PE scheme of work and nothing else by County Sports Partnership - what's going on there given that a quick Google search reveals that so many others are also clearly out pushing this scheme, and no other, to their regional schools?

### **PESS Premium**

4. As a parent governor, I was astonished to learn a fortnight ago that my son's school simply made up its online PE Premium report last year. The head teacher is yet to respond to my letter however the school received an Ofsted inspection last summer without the subject even being raised within the published report. I am appalled that what appears as fraud has been bypassed by Ofsted leaving me questioning if such lax checks have occurred elsewhere.
5. Dead easy to fix. Our school, like too many others, just reports what is planned instead of actually delivered. We also feed back on timetabled PE and Games rather than actual delivery. It's just all part and package of playing to the system.
6. Absolutely amazed that I can't use PE Funding for Early Years Physical Activity, not even for playground markings – so much for promoting inclusion.
7. Got out of school sports a year and a half ago given pure stench of corruption with figures always made up and line management who were

only too happy to pocket half the funding through dodgy invoicing as revealed by paperwork left on gaffer's table. No way was I going to hang around to be dragged into any rollicking that both school and PDM are long due from an Ofsted visit.

8. It's a well-used but accurate saying however it really is the wild west out there. Don't be surprised when schools receive thousands of pounds to spend with little guidance and tons of room to manoeuvre with loopholes aplenty that can be easily exploited. Creative accountancy is epidemic with only the blatantly reckless Academy trusts being caught out.
9. I'm an Early Years specialist who is also the school's PE subject leader. I am so disappointed that those children in Reception have been left out of the spending. Physical development is especially important for this year group as they continue to develop a confident grasp of the core movement skills.
10. I feel like Pinocchio who continues to have his strings pulled by the Executive Head Teacher. All of my ideas have been completely railroaded as PE subject leader with our Head telling me what the grant is to be spent on and no questions to be asked. PE subject leaders from other schools within the Academy Trust have received the same treatment as myself.
11. Headmaster just told me to rebook outside coaching company for yet another year. More football and hockey for all year groups and with no teachers outside, not even me and I'm the PE co-ordinator. Head wants us to prioritise Literacy; Numeracy and Science. He's even told us that he'll knock up any report needed for HMI.
12. As a Head Teacher, there must be major organisations out there working at a grassroots level who have known for a long time the many ways that schools have been able to routinely manipulate and abuse the Premium funding. I remain deeply committed to the importance of health and wellbeing for pupils and staff and have actively gone beyond the distance to ensure best practice. I am however incensed at what other borough primary schools have been allowed to get away with that subsequently pulls us down to their level e.g. Ofsted inspection reports; Kitemark awards that have invited inflated performance. I have

previously reported my concerns to our School Games Organisers and County Sports Partnership only to be met with a wall of silence.

13. No, The Premium has barely made a shred of difference. Whilst I was at least allowed to go on the Real P.E. training, and although I have really worked hard to practice what I learnt, I feel more bewildered now than ever. In this case, I have found that a three day course did not transform the subject for me. I only teach PE once a week therefore maybe this situation doesn't help matters. I love PE and really appreciate how important the subject is however the fact is that I haven't got the time to plan to the depth required when I am being told to 'focus on more important subjects'.
  
14. I'm an experienced PE subject leader however I feel like leaving my school at the moment as I have no voice in terms of the decision making involved in how The Sports Premium is spent. I have become totally disillusioned with not just the subject but the practices that have been orchestrated by Management. For yet another year, our head teacher has provided me with a spreadsheet that breaks down exactly how they want the spending allocated. The figure given for supply costs has always run into thousands of pounds yet there has never been supply cover arranged in the school with Teaching Assistants having usually taken over the duties of any absent teacher. Furthermore, we use the same outside coach to lead the same lessons as the year before and for PPA cover that he leads unaccompanied. These coaching lessons though have always been recorded online as upskilling staff colleagues – they are back in the school marking their books.