



Developing Cultural Capital through P.E.

“It is the essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the best that has been thought and said and helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.

It follows that, as teachers, we need to ensure that along with teaching the content of the curriculum, we are enabling children to function as well-informed individuals well after they leave school. It is a huge job, but without the guidance of their teachers, some young people have very little cultural and social input from elsewhere. They could, therefore, miss opportunities that other young people are able to access, which could lead them to make decisions that are less informed than they could be.

Now more than ever, the job of the classroom teacher is of such high importance with regard to filling the gaps that students have. To this end at Newlands Junior School we have planned a curriculum to provide our pupils with an ambitious range of knowledge and opportunities which will open doors and give them confidence in wider society.

Opportunities to develop cultural capital through P.E. teaching involves:

- Offering a broad and varied curriculum so that children have the opportunity to develop their skills in dance, gymnastics, fitness, athletics, games, swimming and outdoor and adventurous activities. Also offering a huge variation of extra-curricular activities, both at lunchtime and after school, when the children can experience a vast array of activities that compliment what is taught during PE lessons. By immersing the children in such variety, they may develop a passion for a sport/activity that will continue into later life thus maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Pupils' will understand how to keep physically healthy, eat healthily and maintain an active lifestyle as well as participating in exercise in order to be mentally healthy.
- Providing opportunities for children to develop the core values of citizenship (tolerance, responsibility, perseverance, fairness etc) through engaging in a variety of teambuilding activities and sports. The more experience children have of working collaboratively within a group, the more embedded core values will become, making them confident, respectful team members of the future.
- Extending their knowledge of famous sportspeople throughout the world, who have made significant contributions in their particular sport. During each PE topic, in every year, the children will gain an appreciation of the achievements of inspirational sportspeople, thus increasing their cultural knowledge and inspiring pupils to replicate their learning powers and success.
- Extending their vocabulary by immersing the children in terms and technical language linked to each and every topic taught. This acquisition of vocabulary helps to broaden a child's knowledge of the world, making them more confident and worldly-wise in their future life.
- Taking the children to local venues (schools, colleges, sporting complexes, forested areas) in order to compete against other schools in a variety of different events (athletics, cross country, multi-sports, football). Providing the opportunity for children to visit different settings and mix with different people outside of the normal school environment is broadening a child's experience of life even further.
- Inviting expert, external coaches into school to teach the children during curriculum time and also after school. Giving the children this opportunity to interact with a variety of adults, who are specialists in their field, broadens their knowledge and respect for others as well as their chance to participate a wide range of sports they may not otherwise be aware of.
- School signposts children to different physical activities available in the local community which will develop confidence in wider society and develop internal drive and achievement.