

Evaluation of International Activity 2022

Activity title: Gender Equality through Sport

Activity Lead: Liam Wong & Ashley Chiocchi

SDG Links: 4,5

Activity Summary

PE and physical activity is important at Whiston Willis. We understand that children within Knowsley fall within the bottom 20% for obesity within the country. With this in mind, we are constantly encouraging children to engage in sports on a daily basis. This year, we have focussed on providing children of both genders equal opportunities in sport.

We have continued to provide children with numerous sporting opportunities both within the curriculum and extra-curricular – careful consideration has gone in to ensuring these opportunities challenge gender stereotyping within sport. The following curriculum sports have encouraged mixed-gender participation:

- Years 1-6 – Gymnastics
- Years 1-6 - Dance
- Year 3/4 – Football
- Year 5/6 – Rugby
- Year 5/6 – Netball
- Year 5/6 – Tri-Golf
- Year 5/6 – Athletics

In addition to the above, we have provided all children with opportunities to compete competitively in each of the sports through intra-competitions. The following extra- curricular sporting opportunities have also been provided to encourage mixed-gender participation: football, dodgeball, hockey, netball, table tennis, gymnastics and rounders - which have led to mixed-gender inter-competitions. Furthermore, we have engaged with outside agencies to help us tackle 'Gender Equality through Sport': Knowsley School Sport Partnership, Activity for All, Total Gymnastics, Scoot Fit, Tri-Kidz, Liverpool Harriers and LFC Foundation.

Through these opportunities, we have seen an increased participation in sport from all genders. Class teachers have commented that they feel our PE and extra-curriculum offer has changed children's views on gender specific sports.

COVID resulted in minimal communication with our partner school in South Africa, however, over the past year this partnership has been rekindled and both teachers and children in UKS2 have continued to communicate with our partner school, Khulasizwe Primary School. Children at Whiston Willis have completed posters that share the mixed-gender sports that they participate in. In return, Khulasizwe Primary School have stated that most of their sports are gender specific. They do offer some sports to both genders such as football and volleyball, however these are not played as mixed-gender sports and children of different genders do not participate together. The only sport that is played as mixed-gender are the 'indigenous games'. With this in mind, we are currently discussing how we as a school can help improve mixed-gender sporting opportunities at Khulasizwe Primary School – this is something that we will continue to support and develop in the future. Our Year 3/4 pupils were surprised how few sports were on their French partner school's curriculum map compared to ours in the UK and were fascinated to learn that their penpals were able to go ski-ing and snowboarding during the winter.

To further support children's learning through reading, we have introduced 'reading for pleasure class novels' – these are carefully selected to address social and cultural issues based in the context of our children. One of the UKS2 texts is 'Kick' by Mitch Johnson, which focusses on poverty and sport. Children have used this to support their understanding of sporting opportunities in poverty-stricken countries. This has also encouraged discussions around the characters within the story and gender stereotyping in football.

Pupil evaluation comments (please include year group):

- what did you enjoy about this activity?
- what new ideas and information have you learned?
- what would you like to learn/do next?

Teacher evaluation comments (please include Key Stage):

- what was effective about this activity? How could it be improved next time?
- what impact did this have on you and any other staff involved?
- what impact did this activity have on the pupils? on the school generally or on the wider community?

LKS2 – Mr Phillips – ‘The curriculum design allows for a wide range of sporting opportunities. In the past, it has been a challenge to encourage all children to participate in all curriculum sports such as dance and gymnastics, however, this year I have not had this problem’.

UKS2 – Miss Caldwell – ‘I love the fact our PE curriculum and competitions encourage participation of mixed-genders. This has encouraged both boys and girls to play together during break times, particularly in football’.

UKS2 – Mr Wong – ‘Our South Africa partnership has helped our children to be more grateful for the opportunities they have. Personally, this partnership has helped me to understand the importance of our ‘aspire’ competitions, which encourage mixed-gender sports and promote physical activity for our less active children’.

Parent/Visitor/Governor/Wider community evaluation comments:

- what impact has this activity had on your child?
- what impact has this activity had on you?
- how could we improve this activity next time?

