



Scoil Chroí Naofa

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Physical Education Policy

Introductory Statement

This policy for Physical Education was revised by the staff on 1st June 2016.

Rationale

The policy was drawn up to develop a structured approach to the teaching of P.E. while conforming to the principles outlined in the Primary Curriculum.

Vision and Aims

Vision

We seek to promote the enjoyment of P.E. together with the development of skills. We encourage all children to participate to the best of their ability and we provide opportunities to challenge the children where possible.

Aims

- To promote the physical, social, emotional and intellectual development of the child.
- To develop positive personal qualities.
- To help in the acquisition of an appropriate range of movement skills in a variety of contexts.
- To promote understanding and knowledge of the various aspects of movement.
- To develop an appreciation of movement and the use of the body as an instrument of expression and creativity.
- To promote enjoyment of, and positive attitudes towards, physical activity and its contribution to life-long health-related fitness, thus preparing the child for the active and purposeful use of leisure time.

Curriculum Planning

Teachers choose a range of activities from all strands outlined in the P.E. Curriculum for each class. The strands are as follows:

- Athletics
- Games
- Dance
- Gymnastics
- Outdoor and Adventure Activities
- Aquatics

Approaches & Methodologies

Teachers employ a selection from the following methodologies:

- Direct teaching approach
- Guided-discovery approach
- Integrated approach

Within each approach we use a variety of methodologies including:

- Individual, pair, group and team play
- Station teaching
- Using a play area divided into grids

External coaches may deliver strand-specific instruction to children for a defined period of time. This will be supervised by teachers and conform to the emphasis on skills development and social cooperation within our overall P.E. policy.

Assessment and Record-Keeping

The children will be assessed through teacher observation and teacher designed tasks. Parents will be informed of their child's progress in terms of co-operation, participation and skills displayed at parent-teacher meetings.

Multi-Class Teaching

Lessons will be planned to ensure that various levels and abilities are catered for.

Children with Different Needs

Teachers will endeavour to differentiate the P.E. curriculum to suit the developmental stage of children with special needs. We will provide the appropriate activities for the less able and additional challenges for exceptionally able students.

Equality of participation and Access

Equal opportunities will be given to girls and boys to participate in all aspects of P.E. lessons in our school. We are committed to promoting equal access to P.E. for all members of our school community now and in the future.

Linkage and Integration

P.E. is recognised as being effectively integrated with subjects such as Geography (outdoor and adventure activities, dance), History (history of games and athletics), Gaeilge (treoracha), Maths (symmetrical movements in gymnastics, measuring). Teachers will make an effort to integrate P.E. in this manner with other themes/ projects being taught in the class.

Organisational Planning

Timetable

P.E. is currently timetabled for one hour a week in our school. Instruction is provided either by the classroom teacher or by an external instructor who has been approved by the school. Use of the Community Centre is shared among the teachers on an agreed basis. Lessons will be conducted outdoors when weather permits.

Code of Ethics

In keeping with our school ethos, every child is encouraged to participate in all aspects of the P.E. curriculum regardless of their proficiency or experience. Emphasis is placed on participation, co-operation and enjoyment rather than competitive success. This emphasis is to be consistently applied in class lessons, whole school P.E. activities and school team events (e.g. Gaelic football).

After-School Activities

Our school works closely with local clubs and associations to promote physical activity outside school. The GAA pitch is used by the school and notice of training and upcoming matches is given to children in class. Community Games and the local Tennis club are also promoted. The school has a close working relationship with Bunninadden GAA club and collaborates on areas of mutual interest during the year.

P.E. Equipment

A large supply of equipment is available for P.E. lessons in our school. This is stored in the G.P. Room and an inventory is attached to this policy.

Health and Safety

The health and safety issues in each strand are explained to the children and safe behaviour is expected of all children during P.E. class. An emphasis is placed on lifting, carrying, setting up and storing apparatus correctly and safely.

Teachers strive to use appropriate and child-friendly equipment for P.E. lessons, e.g. size/weight of footballs, mats on floors for gymnastics. Teachers advise children on safe ways of participating e.g., forward roll in gymnastics, and are cautioned and corrected in cases of unsafe or dangerous play.

Individual Teachers' Planning and Reporting

The whole school plan and the curriculum documents for P.E. will provide information and guidance to individual teachers for their long and short term plans. Teachers will plan using the various strands and strand units outlined. Occasionally, a themed approach may be adopted. The Cúntas Míósúil will serve in reviewing and developing the whole school plan as well as individual planning.

Staff Development

Teachers have access to reference books, resource material and websites dealing with P.E. Teachers are encouraged to attend C.P.D. courses relating to Physical Education and to share any expertise gained with their colleagues.

Parental Involvement

Parents will be asked to encourage pupils to partake fully, and to the best of their ability, in P.E. lessons and sporting activities organised by the school. The contribution of parents who have expertise in an area of P.E. is welcomed.

Community Links

The GAA, Youth Sport West, Cumann na mBunscol and other sporting organisations assist with the implementation of the P.E curriculum. The local GAA help with pitch preparation and provision of referees when necessary. Children may also participate in activity-based school tours, e.g. Let's Go camps in Sligo I.T., Waterpoint in Enniscrone, Zipit in Boyle, etc.

Success Criteria

The following criteria will be used to evaluate the success of this plan:

- All children participate in and enjoy P.E. in our school.
- Children are offered a wide range of P.E. activities during their time in school.
- Children develop in terms of their sporting ability and their social and personal skills through physical activity (e.g. cooperation, teamwork, respect).
- Activity and healthy lifestyles are promoted in school.

Implementation

Roles and Responsibilities

This policy will be supported and implemented by all staff members at their class level and on a whole-school basis.

Timeframe

This plan will take effect from September 2016

Review

Roles and Responsibilities

This policy will be reviewed by teaching staff as part of ongoing curricular review within the school.

Timeframe

This plan will be reviewed and revised no later than September 2019.

Ratification and Communication

This policy was presented to and ratified by the Board of Management

Signed: Michael Reilly Date: 23 June '16
Chairperson, B.O.M.

Signed: Bernie Burke Date: 23rd June '16
Principal, Scoil Chroí Naofa

The full document will be available to all partners in the school as part of our Plean Scoile which is kept in the school office.