SPORTS FUNDING UPDATE

1. THE IMPACT ON SWIMMING

2. A CALL FOR PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Background

Schools have been receiving additional PE Premium funding for several years now to increase participation and activity in sports for children of all backgrounds, to support health and wellbeing as well as personal development.

We have traditionally used this to provide Key Stage 1 swimming (which is non-statutory); membership of the School Sports Partnership so that children can compete and experience different events outside of school; Real PE membership; subsidising after school sports clubs and pastoral & counselling support.

This year the government announced that the funding structure was being amended. All schools have been awarded less funding as a bridge until the new structure is announced in 2027. We do not know what this will look like yet.

1. THE IMPACT ON SWIMMING

We have 25% less budget than last year so we need to make some changes. A lot of our partners are being really flexible for which we thank them but some have increasing costs themselves which have to be passed on.

Swimming is one of those things. Pool hire has gone up in price as have the prices for coach hire. The transport costs have been increasing over the last couple of years and are becoming quite prohibitive.

The cost of swimming is increasing by a further 23% for the next academic year. Therefore, we have had to take the decision to pause Key Stage 1 swimming for the academic year 2026-2027. We hope that when the new funding structure is announced that we will be able to re-introduce it.

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Key stage two swimming is statutory. We currently provide four terms of swimming over years three and four. This is to support pupils to achieve the national objectives of being able to swim 25m, perform a range of strokes and understand water safety.

In light of the 23% increase, especially for transport, and the squeeze on budgets, we have had to make the difficult decision to cut swimming to one term in year 3 and one term in year 4. This means children will get at least 12 sessions in autumn term next school year and the year after. Again, as soon as the new funding structure is announced we will review the most effective away to increase our swimming/sports offer again.

2. A CALL FOR PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Normally, staff take children on the School Sports Partnership trips and we can use our premium to make sure we have supply cover. As we will have much less budget available for that, WE NEED YOU!

We will be looking for parent volunteers to accompany a teacher or TA on the sports trips. You do need to be DBS checked but don't let that put you off as it's easy to set up. Speak to Gemma at the office and she can do the paperwork with you. It is quick to set up but does then take a couple of weeks to come through.

You may only be able to commit to supporting on one trip or you may be able to volunteer for more. All offers of support are welcome! We don't have dates for all the trips yet but we will let you know as they come up. In the meantime, we would appreciate a quick 'commitment-free!' statement of interest from anyone who may be able to help. Please follow this link or paste into your browser. https://forms.gle/MEq8SPkZSrdZAUqK7

If you have any queries or questions at all about PE Premium funding, the sports events we run or the volunteering, then please send me an email via the office.

Thank you all for your support,

Jo Bailey

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