



February 2023

Dear Parent/Carers,

RE : PE Parental Questionnaire Response

I would like to say a big thank you to all of the parents/carers who took part in the PE questionnaire that was recently sent out. The feedback we gained was overwhelmingly positive and we are very grateful for your support. However, we would like to clarify a few points to clear up any misunderstandings and ensure you are as fully informed as possible moving forward.

- ***Curriculum Content*** – At Churnet View, we aim to provide all pupils with a broad and wide range of different sports and activities. All pupils are taught the same curriculum and participate in the same sports, regardless of gender or ability, in an inclusive manner. Pupils' learning is sequenced over four years so that they can build on their prior learning and we can track their progress. Pupils are taught in three classes by specialist PE teachers. One of these groups caters specifically for those pupils who find the subject more challenging. Currently, we deliver the same number of hours of PE each week as other Middle Schools in the area, with Key Stage 3 pupils accessing one hour more than the National requirement. We change the sport that pupils are learning each half term to ensure pupil engagement in that activity is high. The PE department aim to provide pupils with a variety of sports and activities to access. This exposes pupils to as many sporting experiences as possible in the hope that this generates an interest in a sport or activity that they have not done previously. This will then encourage lifelong involvement in this sport. Whilst we ensure that we are meeting the PE National Curriculum requirements, we are constantly updating our PE curriculum to meet the needs of our pupils and the sports that we deliver, purchasing new equipment annually to ensure high quality teaching and learning is taking place.
- ***Extra-Curricular Activities*** – We run extra-curricular clubs both before, at lunchtime and after school for our pupils. These clubs are open to all pupils. Occasionally, we are required to group pupils due to staffing or to make the club feasible. We always aim to run more than one club on a specific night but departmental staff have meetings on a Monday. Clubs are reviewed every half-term and new ones introduced regularly. Due to the winter dark nights, outdoor clubs, such as football cannot run so we adapt what we deliver to ensure they are accessible inside. All clubs that we deliver are free for pupils to access. The Sports Council are regularly involved in decision making about what clubs we offer. As well as this, all clubs run alongside the seasonal fixtures of a specific sport. As a small school, we are often restricted in numbers due to staffing and the size of our facilities. Unfortunately, most indoor sports clubs are not an option during lunchtime as this space is used for pupils to eat lunch.

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- **School Swimming** – All pupils will swim at Churnet View in Year 5. Previously, pupils would be transported to Brough Park where they would swim for a 6-week block for around 30 minutes a session. To cut down on transport time, pupils will instead take part in an intensive two-week swimming course which will take place in a portable swimming pool on the school site. From the evidence last year, we found that this enabled pupils' muscle memory to increase, and pupils were able to securely meet the National Requirements. Pupils were in smaller groups, which ensured they received personalised coaching and swam for a longer amount of time. For those pupils who do not achieve the National Requirements for swimming, we provide booster sessions in the summer term in Year 6 to help support their swimming development.
- **Kit** – You fed back that pupils coming to school in PE kit was logistically easier, they had more time for the lesson activity and it resulted in less kit being lost; therefore, we have kept this rule in place. The PE kit required for our lessons is available to view on the school website. We are constantly updating this kit and have more recently added the PE hoody to keep in-line with practicality and the changing weather. All PE kit requirements are highlighted at the end of the summer term to parents and at the start of the year during a PE introduction talk to pupils. Tracksuit bottoms are allowed to be worn in all PE lessons. We just ask that these are plain black or navy to keep in-line with uniform expectations. They can have a logo; however, this must be small enough to be covered with the thumb. This is for equality purposes. Base layers can also be worn, but these too should be plain black or navy. Pupils can lend PE kit if they need it for their lessons, including long sleeve PE tops if it is cold.

The only additional kit that we require is a **gum shield** and **shin pads**. This is due to afPE health and safety guidelines, for hygiene reasons they cannot be lent out. **We do have our own stock of football boots**, which pupils can borrow. However, we do recommend pupils bringing their own, if possible, as we have limited pairs of individual sizes of boots and shin pads and they may not be the desired fit or style. There are certain aspects of our policy that cannot be altered due to health and safety rules. No jewellery can be worn for lessons, including plastic earrings, to prevent the risk of injury and all hair must be tied back.

- **Fixtures** - The majority of our fixtures are scheduled by the School Games Organiser for our area. This means that we have little to no control over when in the school year these fixtures take place, the location or how many are arranged. We compete in various Levels: level 1, level 2, district, county and national events for each year group and key stage for a variety of different sports. We ensure that we attend as many fixtures as we can, to allow our pupils the opportunity to experience competition against other schools. This has resulted in the school organising additional fixtures to give more pupils the chance to represent the school. We have achieved much success in fixtures in the last two years and this contributed to us achieving the School games Gold Mark last year. Like the extra-curricular clubs, the organisation and leading of fixtures is time consuming. However, we do this to make sure PE enrichment is in place for our pupils. Many of our Key Stage 2 fixtures take place in the latter stages of the year. This allows them time to learn the sport-specific rules before applying them in a competitive situation. The selection of pupils for school teams does depend on the pupils' behaviour in school and on them being positive role models to other pupils.

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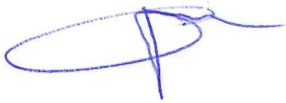
I would like to close this letter with a big thank you from all of the staff in the PE Department for the kind words and feedback.

We would also like to thank you for ensuring your child has the correct kit for each lesson, for allowing your child to represent the school and encouraging them to access our clubs. We understand that Physical Education and School Sport is a team effort and recognise the key role you play in ensuring our pupils lead healthy and active lifestyles and are exposed to lifelong activity in sport.

As a PE Department we are committed to improving and have already implemented some of the ideas highlighted from the questionnaire. Should you wish to contact me to discuss any points of this letter further, or anything else related to Physical Education, my email address is osimpson@ttl.org.uk.

Thanks again for your ongoing support.

Yours in sport,



Mr O Simpson
Head of Physical Education

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