

Home Farm Primary School

Home Farm Primary School Governor Visit Report

Name: Martin Wilson

Date of Visit: 20.05.16

Purpose of Visit: Sports Pupil Premium

Classes / staff visited: Mr P. Arrowsmith

The purpose of the visit was to find out how the school uses the Sports Pupil Premium.

The visit was very interesting. I was taken through how the premium was divided up amongst different sports as well as both curricular and ex-curricular activities. The school uses some of the funding for a coach from Colchester United, who provides both curricular and ex-curricular coaching. The coach provides football as well as other ball related sports coaching, and being a professional coach has the added benefit that teachers take the opportunity to learn coaching methods for those sports. The teachers can therefore improve their own skills and put these into practice by splitting the class into smaller groups, and this benefits the teacher as well as the pupils.

The school sports premium is also used to fund a sports teacher from Philip Morant as well as a Sports Coach Apprentice to help run additional sporting coaching within the school. Using these additional resources provides a wider variety of sports as well as more opportunities for sporting activities at the school.

Year R and 1 have fencing as a curricular activity. This was chosen as it is a different sport and is both physical as well as skill based. This sport improves hand-eye coordination, concentration, attention as well as improving the student's social skills.

A small amount of funding is used for tournament entry fees. The school enters both local Colchester district as well as Blackwater sporting tournaments. Tournament success helps the school promote itself both internally as well as externally and this has encouraged other pupils to join the school's sports clubs.

The school invites parents, whose children who are participating in ex-curricular sporting activities, to provide a voluntary contribution but this was not included on the Sports Premium expenditure that was shown. The rationale is that this is voluntary rather than an income, but it was noted that as only the expenditure was presented and not the income the overall balance would show an improved financial situation if this was included.

Looking at the sports provision and participation figures for the last 4 years, there has been a sharp increase from 2013 where the numbers involved in sport at the school have nearly doubled, although there has been a small dip for this year.

The quality of the external provision is regularly reviewed, with Teachers providing feedback on a weekly basis. This is fed back to the providers to ensure that the sessions are improved. In extreme cases the feedback can also be used to stop particular sessions if they are not seen as providing the expected level of benefit to the pupils.

There are a variety of sports currently available including Football, Netball, Fencing, Rugby, Swimming, Rounders and Cricket. These are accessible to all pupils. It was discussed whether any more technical sports would allow wider participation to those with less physical ability, and this would be considered.

When the costs were reviewed against those shown on the school web-site a small difference was noticed, and this would also be looked into.

Overall there seems to be a good variety and opportunities for Sport at Home Farm School, with a wide take-up. It is often the case that it is the same people who want to be involved in many sports, but the school encourages all abilities with a range of curricular activities as well as the ex-curricular opportunities, with places available for all.