

Summary

Fact: Swimming is the only part of PE that is compulsory in Key Stage 2.

Fact: Pupils need to swim 25 metres 'safely and unaided' by the end of Yr 6

Fact: The National expected achievement rate is currently 80%

Fact: The DfES, concerned about the lack of achievement has given money for Top Up lessons in yrs 5/6

Now we all know Hull City Council is **UNIQUE** but we can prove it!

U – unlike most other Local Authorities, Hull provides a 'one stop shop' to enable pupils to achieve in Key Stage 2.

Schools can opt into a Swimming Programme that provides transport, pool and qualified swimming teachers, making Ofsted recognise them as '**active partners rather than simple recipients of provision**'.

N – naturally in 2005/6/7/8 all schools opted in

I – innovative – since 2003, Hull has offered every non achiever the opportunity to achieve in Yrs 5/6, before DfES involvement.

Q – enough Quantative and Qualitative evidence was found by HMI Ofsted during his visits in 2007; that he stated

'the overall effectiveness of the swimming programme was judged to be outstanding' and 'the curriculum excellent'

U – understandably we are very proud of the National Curriculum Unit who have **continuously ensured that 80plus% of Hull's children achieve**

E – the swim teachers achievement is so enormous that the **only model of best practice** in the Ofsted National Report (published September 2007) is Hull's Programme

Interested in this **UNIQUE** achievement? Read on!!!

17th August 2006

Yassas H

There I was under my parasol, not a care in the world. But this little voice (just like yours) kept saying 'make a difference, make a difference'.

Now I'm in the Net Café & asking what do you want us to do for Hull and the National Curriculum Swimming in Key Stage 2 this year?

18th August 2006

Hi Mira

Lovely to hear from you

You were asking how you can make a difference?

Well your challenge, if you choose to make a difference this year is

- Take 3000 plus 8/9 year olds from Hull and help them achieve in the only part of PE in Key Stage 2 that is compulsory!

- teach them to swim 25metres 'safely & unaided' whether they want to or not!
- Unlike other Local Authorities – Hull will have a 'one stop shop' for Key Stage 2 swimming lessons. Schools can opt into the programme. For a cost of £ 7.75 per head for a total of 16 lessons the school will get transport (as required), pool hire and qualified swim teachers. Also no school teacher will be expected to teach swimming!!!
- Of course 2000 won't be able to swim even 10 metres in armbands
- 1000 of them will never have seen a pool.
- Groups of perhaps 18 (varying ability)
- In a mainstream class of 30, 20 plus might have special needs. You will need to teach the same programme to the 5 special schools that also attend lessons
- Some children will tell you that their mum has said that they don't have to do what you tell them if they don't want to – you're not their real teacher!!!
- In addition to the 8/9 year olds you will get 10/11 year olds that didn't achieve last year.
- Not forgetting of course the Water Safety information that you'll need to deliver
- Time-scale? –8 hours (which will include an initial assessment and then recorded continuous assessment). When will you see them? – everyday for 16 days!
- Deliver up to 7 half hour lessons a day to ensure that every child In Hull has an equal opportunity to learn to swim
- Each school, accompanying teacher or support worker will have an opportunity to comment on the service you provide
- Line managers will expect you to achieve an 80% success rate, surpassing the national achievement rate – even though Hull is not known for its high levels of physical activity!
- Oh and you will receive 2 separate visits from HMI Inspector for Ofsted who is compiling a National Report about swimming in Key Stage 2
- We expect you to perform so well during the year and on those inspection visits that HMI Ofsted decides to use the National Curriculum Swimming Service that Hull provides as the only Model of Best Practice Case Study in his report because the **'overall effectiveness of the swimming programme was judged to be outstanding' (Ofsted Reports 2007)**

Well Mira, have a think about it and let me know if you are one of the nine swim teachers and 'super sub' who is going to make a difference this year

H

20th August 2006

Hi H

Ant & Den here, we caught the emails – we'll need to establish & develop excellent working relationships with colleagues and partners for that. How shall we do it?

20th August 2006

I thought we would do it by:

Establishing and developing excellent working relationships with colleagues and/or partners

With Colleagues

- Ofsted will want us to ensure that **'the curriculum is excellent' (Ofsted 2007)**
- Team meetings – where everyone has the opportunity to contribute eg. swim teachers were involved in deciding which programme we would deliver and how we would deliver it. Through experience they can tell us which school needs to swim at which pool. (not just because of the proximity but because of the likely number of non swimmers that might be attending)
- Standardisation days – when we ensured that all swim teachers knew what , where and the how was expected of them. This led to our continuous assessment records highlighting what was expected of the child at each stage
- Standard documentation – so that everyone is recording the same type of information
- Continuous assessment allowing children to move from group to group according to their new found abilities. It will need to have not only the Key Stage 2 requirements but also 'stretching' requirements for achieving children

With Partners

- Unlike other Local Authorities – Hull will have a policy of a 'one stop shop' for Key Stage 2 swimming lessons. All schools will need to do is to opt into the LEA swim programme. For a cost of £ 7.75 per head for a total of 16 lessons the school will get transport (as required), pool hire(Local Authority Pools)and qualified swim teachers. Even more important - no school teacher will be expected to teach swimming!!!
- We will work with the LEA to ensure that schools have choices as to where & when they swim. We will also ensure that Swim Teachers views are taken into account with regard to schools that need lots of shallow water space for their pupils
- Each partner and every swim teacher will know what their responsibility is from the **Guidelines** that the school signs up to when they sign the SLA (and which are sent to everyone each year)
- We will encourage school teachers to get involved on poolside by getting them to fill in the registrars and standing with the swim teacher to encourage their pupils on to greater achievements (they are also able to identify for example which child might be upset that particular morning because his/her parents split up the night the night before or because the child had been taken into care at the weekend)

Thanks H

21st August 2006

H

That sounds fantastic!

We'd also need to **ensure a high level of professionalism and commitment to work** – how will we ensure this?

Mira

24th August 2006

Hi Mira

I've been thinking about that, we would need:

Partnership

- Swim teachers as part of a larger partnership team including the LEA, Local Transport & Hull Leisure facilities and management.
- For over 10 years all the partners have strived hard to achieve a streamlined, one stop shop Key Stage 2 swimming service, for all the local primary and special schools.
- Heads having the opportunity to opt into the system and when they sign up to have lessons, buying into a total package. (all schools opted in for 2005/6/7/8)
- Heads knowing that they have some choice of where and when they swim. Since 2003 they have been encouraged to bring back any non achieving Year 5/6s with their Year 4s
- Schools having the opportunity to comment on the total service provided through an evaluation questionnaire - **since 2002 over 98% have felt that the service was good value for money**
- Unlike a lot of local authorities, the Year 4 School Teachers will not be expected to teach swimming!!!! **'Many thanks to the swimming teachers, lessons greatly enjoyed by all children (and adults!) Amazing progress considering the high proportion of children with special needs & behavioural issues' – Collingwood, 2007**

Transport and pool allocation

- This will be collated by the LEA through a Service Level Agreement with each school –sent out during the previous summer term, then schools can have the chance to change dates, times and even pool. Wendy in the LEA is committed to making it work for the schools.

Pools

- We will use three local authority public pools to teach swimming
- Water testing, first aid, health & safety will be provided by the pool management team

Schools

- Schools will provide information about any issues the children might have
- The 'Teacher in Charge' will be expected to supervise the changing rooms and the formal handing over of pupils to the swim teachers.
- Teachers to remain on poolside to support both the children and the swim teacher

Swim Teachers

- As part of the SLA, all Swim Teachers to have a level 2 ASA Swim Qualification and a lifesaving/life guarding qualification
- All Swim Teachers will attend training, meetings and standardisation days

- They will come to work with colds and flu, in pain and in all weathers (including flooding) to deliver their service – **‘All staff were very good at accommodating us a short notice due to the difficult weather conditions & the flooding. They were able to make a considerable impact on the children, especially the lower ability swimmers, which is what we required’ Bethune, 2007**
‘Accommodating when changes had to occur eg because of snow. Very good service’ St Richards, 2007
- They will be expected to realise 80% achievement rates (the national expected average) when in 2006/7 66% of the children assessed won’t be able to swim 10 metres in armbands **‘Thank you – great success this year with all pupils’ – Tilbury, 2007**

What do you think?

H

25th August 2006

Wow H – we can’t wait for the new school year!

What about outstanding customer focus or service?

Ant & Den

25th August 2006

Hi Both

Now you’re just preening! You know from feedback records that the service is good and focuses on the customer. You can assume that next years feedback will show that:

- Hull Leisure has Charter Mark
- Schools are asked to provide feedback on the total service - Service Evaluation Questionnaire
- **‘Schools are active partners, rather than simply recipients of provision’ (Ofsted 2007)**
- **‘Provision is inclusive and access is open for all Yr 4 pupils, including those with learning difficulties and or disabilities. This is supplemented by top up lessons in yrs 5/6 for those who fail to reach the recommended benchmark. Schemes of work are suitable and curriculum mapping is appropriate. These are supplied by the local authority as part of the service level agreement in place’ (Ofsted 2007)**
- **Since 2004/5 all the schools have highlighted that the swim teachers provide a good level of customer service (Service Evaluation Questionnaires 2004 – 2007)**
- **‘Pupils said that they really enjoyed these sessions and, overwhelmingly, felt that they had made good progress’ (Ofsted 2007)**
- **‘Generally fantastic. One of our autistic children really benefited from working one to one (Bricknell, 2007)**
- **‘ The swimming teachers provided an excellent level of tuition, particularly as we had 2 autistic children’ (St Vincent’s , 2007)**

But then you knew all this

H

26th August 2006

Hi H

Sorry about that, but we just wanted you to remember just how good we really are Anyway warming to our subject of 'making a difference' - how can we ensure added value to the organisation and/or increase efficiency?

Ant & Den

26th August 2006

Hi all

I can answer this one!!!

We already know that :

- Achievement rates have improved from 44% in 1998/9 to over 80% each year since 2003/4
- The number of hours (before & after lessons) has been reduced over the years to stream line the service. Still providing a safe environment but making the service more cost efficient
- That there will be Ofsted recognition in 2007
- That parents/carers are provided with a set of guidelines about what they need to do to ensure that their child has a safe, happy and profitable experience (**Parental Guidelines**)

Speak soon

Mira

27th August 2007

Thank you Mira

And I'm assuming that the team will contribute to the delivery of high quality services by:

- Ofsted recognising that very effective liaison and all parties being aware of their responsibilities ensures that all could work together, providing high quality swimming, raised standards and promoting good achievement for all
- the team will ensure that 'provision is also made for quality assurance of the programme, based upon agreed success criteria' (Ofsted 2007)
- Ofsted recognising that 'the local authority was sensitive to potential barriers to participation and had policies in place to mitigate non-participation because of race, sex or disability. That there would be 'full access for individuals with disabilities in all the pools and changing facilities. That there would be liaison with local religious leaders to ensure that cultural customs relating to Muslim girls were not compromised'

H

22nd July 2007

Bonjour all

(it's my turn for the parasol)

Well, were we right?

Did we 'Make a Difference' in 2007? – did we achieve what we set out to do in all those emails in August 2006?

- Our partners think we did,
- The schools we delivered the service to think we did
- The children we taught think we did

And if you ask the question 'which Local Authority Swimming Teachers and Swim Programme is going to be the only Model of Best Practice Case Study in the newest Ofsted Report on Swimming? Would that be Hull's?

Then Yes - We do!!!

But then Mira, Antares and Deneb you were always stars!!!