

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION** – ‘Our school prioritises a different PE strand for further development each year’

**Dance Strand:**

After careful deliberation during a staff meeting we voted to prioritise Dance. We had several meetings to discuss how we could enhance the dance strand for all classes.

Two of our teachers with a particular interest, and aptitude, for dance agreed to lead the work. They photocopied the PSSI lesson plans for Folk Dance and Creative Dance. After the Christmas break we all taught dance at the same time: 3 weeks folk dance and 3 weeks creative dance working primarily from the PSSI lesson plans but also using suggestions from the IPPEA & PDST websites. Teachers shared resources, music and lesson plans during the six week period. This worked out really well.

**School Website**

School website confirmed that the school was working on the Dance strand during 16/17. Photos of folk dances and creative dances were also uploaded.

**Screening Comment**

All of the ASF success criteria for PHYSICAL EDUCATION refer to the classroom teacher teaching the primary PE curriculum during timetabled PE classes.

This application would be approved by screening because it is clear that the school has worked together, as a staff, to strengthen the Dance strand of the PE curriculum at all levels. They standardised the PE timetable so that the lead teachers could support their colleagues. Both sub-units, folk dance and creative dance, were taught.

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**Dance Strand:**

Our school prioritised dance for further development this year. This priority was developed in two ways. Firstly, the pupils took part in Zumba classes organised by a local business. Secondly, the pupils participated in school discos throughout the school year. These discos were organised by a parent who is also a professional DJ. The discos took place at Halloween, Christmas and in February. During these discos the pupils enjoyed many fun games involving dance.

<b>Screening Comment</b>	<p>All of the ASF success criteria for PHYSICAL EDUCATION refer to the classroom teacher teaching the primary PE curriculum during <u>timetabled PE classes.</u></p> <p>The Zumba classes are an excellent example of school-community links and definitely should be featured in the Partnerships section of the school website/PPT. The parent organised discos are also an excellent initiative, and really relevant in terms of 'Physical Activity throughout the School Year' and school-parent links. While all of these initiatives are very, very worthwhile they do not relate to the primary PE curriculum. It is not clear that classroom teachers have strengthened their delivery of the dance strand of the primary PE curriculum therefore a 'Request for Further Development' would issue.</p>
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**Dance Strand:**

We held a number of ceilís during the year which the children really enjoyed. We also had a half time show during our ceilís where different groups of pupils preformed in front of the school. Children were encouraged to form their own creative dance groups and preform dances during break time at school.

<b>Screening Comment</b>	<p>All of the ASF success criteria for PHYSICAL EDUCATION refer to the classroom teacher teaching the primary PE curriculum during <u>timetabled PE classes.</u></p> <p>It is not clear how the Dance strand of the PE curriculum has been developed in this school or how timetabled PE classes have been strengthened. Creative dance is mentioned it is not explained if creative dance is being taught at all class levels and if the creative dance groups are arising out of PE classes or just a general call out for pupils to from dance groups in their own time to come up with dances for the display during break times. A 'Request for Further Information' would issue in the first instance from the screening committee.</p> <p><b>* Many ASF applications list 'Go Noodle' as the method that their school used to develop dance but 'Go Noodle' is not directly related to the content of the PE curriculum. It is an excellent resource for use as an active break and it promotes dance in a fun and enjoyable way therefore it is of huge relevance to the PHYSICAL ACTIVITY section of the application form.</b></p>
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