

Top Up programme for School Swimming: Its Principles and Implementation



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Background

- Government Report into School Swimming
 - 20% of pupils at Primary School leave not being able to swim 25m or above
 - 5% of Primary School don't swim
- Development of a Swimming Charter
 - Recommendation to implement Top Up Swimming
- Swimming Activities and Water Safety
 - Statutory activities at Key Stage 2 (KS2) 11yrs

Key Stage 2 Swimming

- **Pupils should be taught to**
- Pace themselves in floating and swimming Challenges related to speed, distance and personal survival
- Swim unaided for a sustained period of time over a distance of at least 25metres
- Use recognised arm and leg actions, lying on back and front
- Use a range of recognised strokes and personal survival skills. Front crawl, Back crawl, Breaststroke, sculling, floating, surface diving

Interventions

- **Funding** – 2004 Prime Minister announced £5.5 million for a national programme.
- **Direct Grant Aid**
 - Target Funding to areas of Aquatic deprivation
- **Top Ups**
 - Additional Lesson
- **Teacher Training**
 - Curriculum Training
- **Pools 4 Schools**
 - Mobile Pool



Top Up Swimming

- Organisation
- Funding
 - ❖ Hire of a swimming pool;
 - ❖ Hire of a swimming teacher;
 - ❖ Transport costs;
 - ❖ Buying specialist link teacher or supply cover time.
- Type Delivery: Think Differently

Delivery Models

- Targeted Approach
 - Weakest Swimmers
- Intensive Lessons
 - Time and Frequency
- Additional Teacher
 - Understanding



Statistics Analysis

- Over 200,000 pupils took part in Top Up Swimming
- 64% achieved Key Stage 2 attainment levels
- Over 10,000 delivers of School swimming have received additional training.
- Over 10,000 pupils learnt to swimming in Pools 4 Schools programme

Data Source September 2010



What did we learn from the Top Ups

- 93% of school teachers involved in the scheme felt the scheme was helpful and would like to take part again
- The swimming achievement was only one outcome. Many of the pupils gained in self confidence, self esteem and enjoyed the activity for the first time
- A significant number of children have difficulty with current delivery of swimming

What did we learn Cont....

- The intervention was successful. From those who participated 63% Met the standard after 10 days of intensive lessons.
- This resulted in an average of 92% of all pupils involved in these areas meeting the National Curriculum standard compared to the OFSTED figure of 83%

Perceived Barriers

- The biggest barrier to achievement was home Culture School swimming culture is the second most important ingredient
- Being part of an ethnic minority is only an issue where culture presents a barrier
- Social disadvantage is not always a barrier to learning

Key Messages

- Planning
 - Agenda
- Reducing Ratios
 - Class Sizes
- Improving Quality
 - Better Quality Teachers
- Increasing Frequency
 - Swim More Often
- Reward and Recognition
 - Celebrate

Questions

