

spear

centre for sport, physical education
& activity research

Active Kids Paralympic Challenge: Phillimore Community Primary School Playground Makeover



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About *spear*

The Centre for Sport, Physical Education & Activity Research (*spear*) is located within the School of Human & Life Sciences at Canterbury Christ Church University. *spear* undertakes a range of evidence-led analyses, from critical commentaries and reflections on current policy and practice, to commissioned research, evaluation and consultancy.

The Centre's research is funded by a range of national and international funders such as the International Olympic Committee, World Health Organisation, Terre des Hommes, Department of Health, Department for Education, English Federation for Disability Sport, Access Sport, Youth Sport Trust, Sport England and Sport Wales. Recent work has focused on sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing in schools and communities.

Research conducted by *spear* has helped guide and inform public policy by contributing to the wider evidence base used by policy makers, providing a rationale for government and commercial investment, and steering programme improvements that enhance the experience of practitioners and participants.

The Centre for Sport, Physical Education & Activity Research (*spear*)
Canterbury Christ Church University
North Holmes Road
Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1QU
Tel: 01227 922680
email: spear@canterbury.ac.uk
www.canterbury.ac.uk/spear
Twitter: [@spear_news](https://twitter.com/spear_news)

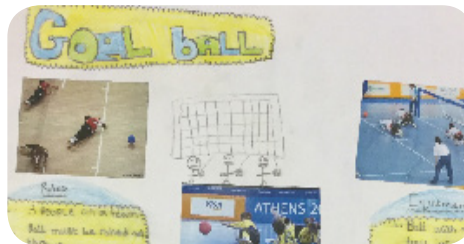
Active Kids Paralympic Challenge evaluation undertaken by *spear* and commissioned by the Youth Sport Trust. Report produced by *spear*.

Authors: Dr Sarah Fullick, Dr Abby Foad, Mrs Michelle Secker
Project Team: Dr Sarah Fullick, Dr Abby Foad, Mrs Michelle Secker

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About Phillimore Community Primary School

Phillimore is a multicultural community primary school situated in the heart of Sheffield. The school reflects the rich diversity of the local area. Phillimore adopts a whole school approach to the development of pupils' health and wellbeing, and a specialist PE teacher (Jo Searle) delivers a multifaceted programme encompassing three delivery strands; PE, healthy and active lifestyles, and competitive sport. This holistic approach is designed to develop healthy, confident and active children ready for the next stage of their lives.



“
PE is a real strength at our school and helps us promote our secrets of success.
(Gillian Briggs, Headteacher)

“
It's not just about the PE, it's about the health and wellbeing of our children. Our focus has been about PE, but it is now shifting more towards the health aspect which of course PE is part of. Now our attention is on playtimes and lunchtimes as well.
(Gillian)

“
There's definitely a link between children's activity levels, their engagement in the learning process and their achievements, so we really are committed to the health and wellbeing agenda.
(Gillian)

Phillimore's Active Kids Paralympic Challenge

London 2012 provided Phillimore with a platform to develop inclusive activity themes that complemented their 'secrets of success' (core values), supported their Whole School Improvement Plan, and aligned to Paralympic values. In particular Sitting Volleyball, Boccia, and Goalball were popular activities and formed part of the KS2 physical literacy programme. In September 2015 the Youth Sport Trust (YST) advertised the Sainsbury's Active Kids Paralympic Challenge, promoting free equipment and online resources, prompting Jo to register for the programme. The resource cards and equipment enabled Jo to 'revitalise' inclusive activity, providing staff and young leaders with intuitive activities that could be integrated into lessons, extra-curricular clubs, and playtimes.



“
During some of our classroom based activities the children designed posters and instruction booklets on how to play the games. As the children had been so engaged with the Paralympic games I had taught them, they were able to accurately describe the rules, the equipment and demonstrate real empathy in their written work. It was at this stage that I decided to share our journey.
(Jo Searle, Specialist PE Teacher)

The Sainsbury's Active Kids Paralympic Challenge facilitated changes in attitudes towards disability, and challenged perceptions of inclusive activities. The challenge also provided an unexpected conduit to engage pupils, in particular girls, who would 'ordinarily shy away from PE, sport and physical activity'. Further communication from YST highlighted the opportunity to share and celebrate the school's activities that could result in winning a £50,000 playground makeover. Jo showcased the school's journey by submitting an online article, 'Understanding, Empathy and Inspiration at Phillimore Primary School'.

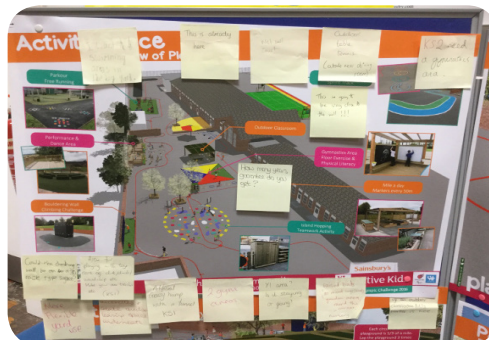
Winning the Playground Makeover

In July 2016 Jo and Gillian (Headteacher) shared the school's achievement with the staff who were overwhelmed by the enormity of the prize. Winning the playground makeover provided Phillimore with an exciting opportunity to develop a modern multi-purpose play area that meets the needs of the whole school, and supports its progressive health and wellbeing agenda. While Phillimore is surrounded by green space the school does not have access to these areas and has been reliant on a large but 'tired' concrete playground that was in need of a 'facelift' to fully engage pupils and families in a range of activity opportunities.

Walt: make group decisions about how to improve playtimes

Wilf:

- Look carefully at the pictures and designs
- Listen to each other
- Choose your group's items
- Show the items with reasons for choosing them. For each item include:
 1. a label
 2. who would use it
 3. why would they use it



A special assembly 'anything is possible, I can, dare to dream', was organised to reveal the prize to the children on 8th September 2016. Prior to the assembly classes watched Channel 4's 'We're the Superhumans' Rio 2016 Paralympic trailer and then engaged in a range of discussions around disability and inclusivity. The assembly revisited the school's Active Kids Paralympic Challenge before announcing the £50,000 playground makeover prize. The children were in awe of the proposed £50,000 state-of-the-art playground makeover from Sainsbury's, and were excited that they would have the opportunity to shape the design of the play areas themselves.

Bringing the Playground to Life

Inspired by their achievements the children and staff worked in collaboration to develop an initiative called 'Our Healthy Year', designed to encourage the school community to be as active as possible and maximise future use of their new playground. A number of consultation opportunities were facilitated for pupils, staff, governors, parents and families to engage in the design and development of their new playground. Ideas and aspirations for the new playground were consolidated and fed back to the playground developers [Playscheme](#). Based on the initial consultation period [Playscheme](#) created a number of designs which were presented to the school community for further discussions and to finalise the playground designs.

PLAYGROUND Playground Improvement Prize: £50,000 Calling all pupils/parents/carers. You will have heard about Phillimore's amazing prize courtesy of the Active Kids Paralympic Challenge competition. Thank you to ...
Posted 14 Oct 2016, 09:43 by office phillimore



“
It's fabulous, I know when Jo said 'we've won £50,000', I was like 'really?'. It's absolutely fantastic, you saw the children in the hall they were just so amazed and happy, as are the staff.
(Gillian)

“
It is amazing. We are very excited! We could have a climbing area, or gymnastics, things we can jump off or a spiders web!
(Group of Year 6 Children)

“
I think it is just an amazing time for the children to be thinking 'what would I like, what can we do?' and getting the kids more active and really inspire them more at playtimes, during PE and even in after school clubs to try something new.
(Gillian)

“
For schools who aren't sure about engaging in these national opportunities I'd say come to Phillimore, see what we have done. PE is an absolute strength of the school and I think if somebody is in two minds of whether to use national incentives and initiatives to shape our curriculum or not, just do it and come and see how it has impacted on us! There is a link between active kids and their active learning with their enjoyment of school and therefore their progress and attainment.
(Gillian)

Bringing the Playground to Life Cont...



“ We have to sit down and then we have to put the shades on and you had a ball with a bell in it and you had to listen to where the ball was going. It was difficult but it was fun. (Year 6 child)

“ That teamwork is the best medicine and when you are not happy, people around you can always help you. (Year 6 child)



“ You always have to have courage to do what makes you feel afraid or you can't do it, you always have to just try it. (Year 6 child)

“ We returned to school today after the holidays to find a completely transformed playground. One child stated “there is so much to do now”. (Jo)

Phillimore's Playground: Then and Now

Engaging the whole school community in the consultation process ensured children, parents, staff and governors had a vested interest in the development of the playground. Playscheme developed 6 designs, plans and 2D impressions enabling all involved to 'visualise the playground and activities as if they were standing on the playground itself'. Playscheme installed play areas, equipment and facilities during term time so 'the children could see their ideas come to life step by step', which would encourage the children to take ownership of their new playground. Once completed, and following staff training on the parkour activity area, the playground was fully functional. An official launch ceremony took place in October 2017 with a visit from Paralympian Jonnie Peacock.



“ One child stated that she could tell there had been so much thought put into the design as everyone now had something they could do outside which they could enjoy! (Jo)



“ We did a lot of consultation. We felt it important to ask the children, parents and staff to get a good idea of what people really wanted. Playscheme were really patient with us, and things went relatively smoothly. (Jo)



Phillimore's Playground Makeover Impact & Legacy

Winning the Sainbury's Active Kids Paralympic Challenge Playground Makeover has inspired:

- A whole school health, wellbeing and physical fitness movement, including creation of allotments and healthy eating activities for all.
- Opportunities for extended learning and play.
- A range of outdoor cross-curricular learning opportunities.
- A deeper understanding of the links between health, wellbeing, fitness and academic attainment.
- Staff training and development to maximise use of the new facilities and equipment in curricular and extra-curricular activities.
- Children, particularly girls, who are not keen on traditional sporting activities to be more active.
- The inclusion of Sitting volleyball in the level 2 School Games in Sheffield.

“
The children love parkour, it is so popular we've had to manage numbers on it, but the good thing is there's so much for them to do. If the queue's a bit long they go and do something else! There's never an area that's not being used!
(Jo)

“
*Compared to what we had before it's a whole new world, the money is amazing and we've never stopped appreciating it! Someone said to me 'there are just more smiles on more people's faces'.
(Jo)*



“
*We're now moving forward with healthy eating, so it's having an impact on other areas in the school and having a really positive knock on effect. Parents are seeing lots of different healthy activities happening. There's even a group starting their own allotments. It's a whole school priority to work with children, parents and staff on improving health and fitness.
(Jo)*



“
*The midday supervisors think the playground is just fantastic, and it makes their job so much easier. The children have so much to do that the supervisors are now not constantly dealing with children who are bored or falling out with each other.
(Jo)*

