

13. Student Led Co-curricular Society Clubs

Theale Green School – a coeducational secondary school and sixth form with academy status located in the village of Theale, Berkshire. (South / SLIDACI: 8 / PLIDACI: 6)

What?

A critical barrier in creating co-curricular clubs within secondary schools is the justification of resource due to the limited attendance of young people. A solution for combatting poor attendance could be involving young people within the process of selecting the timetable. Youth engagement is an active process which allows pupils to have a voice, expressing their views and experiences to influence future decisions. Through implementing pupil voice into the structure of an co-curricular programme, it can provide children and young people with confidence with new people and comfortability discussing feelings, in addition to developing their communication skills, (NSPCC, 2023).

So what?

Theale Green School have considered the use of pupil voice within their co-curricular activities thinking outside of the box when deciding the selection within their programme. Through considering the importance of play, the school have allowed pupils to add to the timetable with their own club ideas inclusive of a gardening club, ultimate frisbee club, dungeons and dragons and Duke of Edinburgh club. Alongside the traditional sports offer, these student-led activities propose an alternative option for physical activity promoting creativity and play to create positive experiences for children and young people to connect. With no specialist teacher required, students can be supervised within a safe environment

to referee their own activities and play for fun. The school has seen an increase in attendance and health and wellbeing of pupils since implementing this co-collaborated timetable shifting to a positive school culture and ethos.

Now what?

A key message to observe from this case study is that sport and physical activity has no defined structure. It should be encouraged that:

1. Schools co-collaborate with their pupils to identify what activities they would like to participate in even if these stray from the traditional sporting options.
2. Consider the School Games 'physical activity' and multi-sport as alternative options for co-curricular activities which can still contribute to the 60 minutes of activity a day.



[NSPCC \(2023\) 'Involving children and young people'](#).
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