



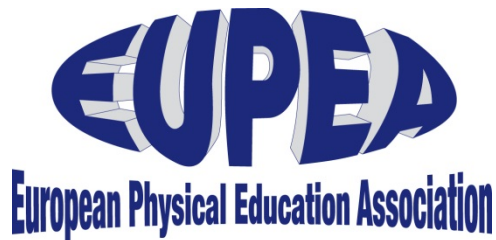
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Physical Education in Ireland

Board Meeting 27th Feb. - 1st March
2015

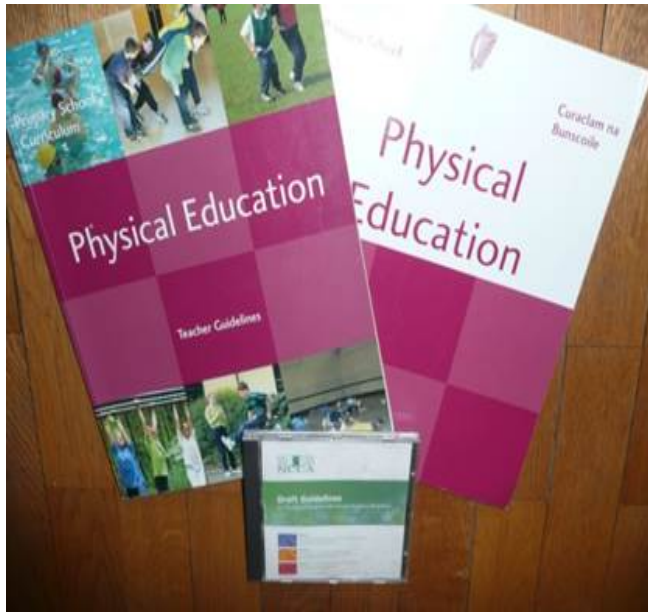
Edinburgh / Scotland UK



Outline

- Physical Education Curriculum
- What is happening in schools?
- Challenges
- 2 Case Studies

Physical Education Curriculum



- Revised Government of Ireland (1999)
- 60 minutes a week
- 6 strands: aquatics, games, dance, gymnastics, athletics and outdoor and adventure activities;
- Generalist primary teachers teaches PE

Supports

- PSSSI lesson plans online resource

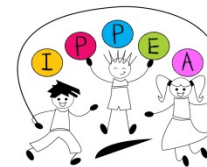


Active School Flag Initiative (DES)



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- CARA work on Inclusion



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What is happening in schools?

- **Time allocation** (Broderick & Shiel, 2000; Cosgrave, 2006; Deenihan, 2007; Houses of the Oireachtas 2005; Fahey et al., 2005; Murphy, 2007; Woods et al., 2010)
- **Games dominated** (Coulter, 2010; McGuinness and Shelley, 1995; Murphy, 2007; Woods et al., 2010)
- **Facilities** (Darmody et al., 2010; Deenihan, 2007; Fahey et al., 2005; INTO, 2007)
- **Equipment** DES Grants are not annual; Supermarkets points system!
- **Government Policy on literacy and numeracy**
- ▶ **Children's perspectives on physical education** (Broderick & Shiel, 2000; Darmody et al., 2010; Coulter & Woods, 2011; Travers et al., 2010)
- ▶ **Who teaches physical education?** (Carney & Howells, 2008; Houses of Oireachtas, 2005; Hunter, 2006; Mackenzie, 1999; Roche et al., 2009; Talbot, 2008)
- ▶ **External providers**
- ▶ **Programmes and packs**
e.g. Fit4School, Fundamental Fun...€€€
Confusing Messages: What is PE?

Professional Development for Teachers

- Certificate
- Diploma
 - Thesis
- Masters
 - Thesis
- Communities of Practice
- Summer Courses



Recent Development: 4 year BED PE at St. Patricks College, Dublin

- 430 BED 1 2014-2015
CORE PE
- BED 1 24 hours PE
- BEd 2 24 Hours



- BED 2
- Specialisation for 3 years
- 25 students study PE (due to staffing restrictions)

BED 2

- 24hours +24+24= Total 72 hours *contact* time

BEd 3

- 48 Hours *contact* time in PE

BED 4

- 48 hours *contact* time in PE
(27 Credits)

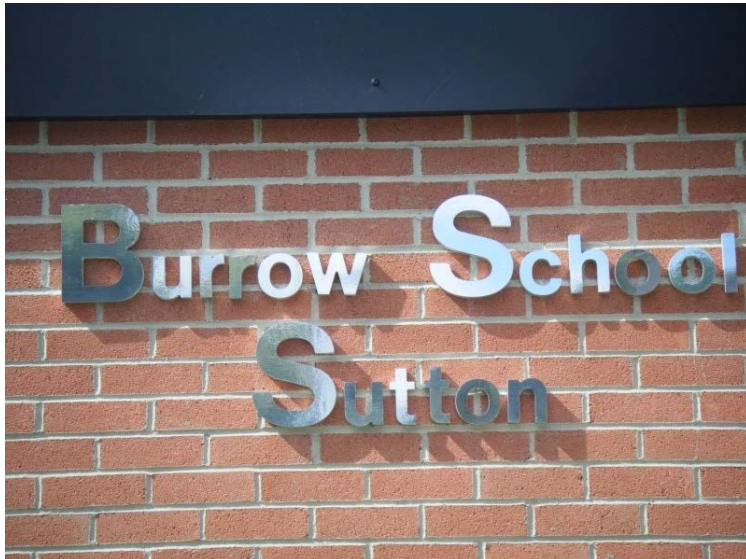


PE in 2 Schools



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Case Study 1 – Burrow NS



- * Mixed primary school located in Sutton, Dublin 13.



- * 220 pupils in classes from Junior Infants to 6th.



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Sutton



- 12km from Dublin city centre
- 12km from Dublin airport



Physical Education in the Burrow

- PE - 1 hour timetabled PE per week
 - PE programme = 5 strands
 - School practice to use “Discretionary Time” to promote physical activity and it's highly valued.
-
- Teachers are encouraged to use the local beach as much as possible for educational trips and physical activity (Ultimate frisbee, relays, volleyball ...)





In our school ...

Strengths

- The Board of Management value a sports co-ordinator position – physical education & after school sports
- Enthusiastic teachers who value PE
- Very strong games, athletics and dance as many teachers have completed professional development in their own time

Weaknesses

- Gymnastics (lack of equipment, lack of teacher confidence)
- Restricted space both indoor and outdoor (pic)
- Curriculum overload
- Restricted budget for PE





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Case Study 2

St. Declan's N.S., Ashbourne, Co. Meath.

- **2005-2015:** 12-33 teachers.
- **2015** = 648 pupils (mixed).
- **PE:** Two 30 minute classes timetabled weekly.
- **PE Policy:** All strands including Aquatics.
- **Recreation:** 10 mins & 30 mins.





Ashbourne Co. Meath



- 20 km from Dublin City Centre
- 22km from Dublin Airport
- Population 2015: 14,000+
(doubled since 2005)
- Commuter town to Dublin.
Apartments/Housing=
Few green areas.
One playground.





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In Our School....

Strengths

- **Indoor PE:** Common area (20m x 11m)
- **Outdoor PE:** School yards and residential green.
- **Recreation until Nov 2014:** Ample yard space for play.
- **Extra-Curricular Activities:** Gaelic Football, Basketball, Camogie, Hurling, Athletics, Rounders
- **Equipment**
- **School PE Policy**
- **Teachers enthusiastic**

Weaknesses

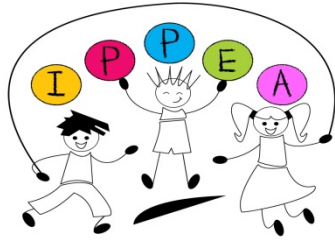
- **Indoor PE:** Christmas stage performances restrict indoor PE from early November and December.
- **Recreation Nov 2014 onwards:** Building works reduced play area yards to three.
- **Curriculum overload**
- **Strands:** Imbalance still occurs.
- **External Providers**
- **Aquatics:** Costly for parents.



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Indoor and Outdoor Activity Spaces





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- IPPEA founded in 2002
- Voluntary organisation
- 190 members
- 10 euros membership fee
- Supported by PDST and Dublin West Education Centre





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The IPPEA aims to:

- Represent and support the needs of primary teachers involved in Physical Education
- Support the promotion of Physical Education and healthy lifestyles in primary school
- Hold, organise and participate in conferences and workshops for the purpose of promoting PE at primary level
- Keep members up to date on the latest issues and developments in PE and related areas
- Liaise with other organisations involved in the promotion of PE, Physical Activity and Sport

IPPEA Activities

Main Activities:

- Annual Conference
- Community of Practice Workshops for teachers
- Position Statements and Guidelines
- Website information and reports on PE
- Twitter and Facebook



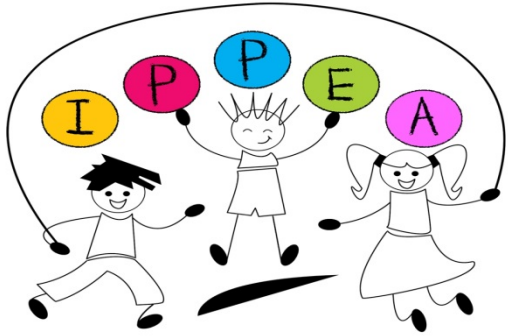
The poster for the IPPEA Conference 2015 features a central illustration of a hand reaching into an open cardboard box. Surrounding the box are several thought bubbles, each containing an activity: 'Golf for schools' (with a golf course image), 'American Spikeball' (with a spikeball net image), 'Water play In the pool' (with a pool image), 'Moving with' (with colorful blocks), 'Biking Outdoors' (with a bicycle image), 'Gymnastic on the grass' (with a gymnast image), and 'And more.....'. A small sign at the bottom of the box says 'Delish for your diet' with a picture of children. The text on the poster includes the association's name in English and Irish, the conference title 'Thinking & Moving Outside the Box', the date 'Saturday 28th February 2015', the venue 'Hodson Bay Hotel Athlone', and the registration date 'Registration opens on January 5th 2015'. It also provides the website 'www.irishprimarype.com' and social media icons for Facebook and Twitter, along with a QR code.

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Conference 2015
Thinking & Moving Outside the Box
Alternative and Exciting Workshops

Golf for schools
American Spikeball
Water play
In the pool
Moving with
Biking Outdoors
Gymnastic on the grass
And more.....
Delish for your diet

Saturday 28th February 2015
Hodson Bay Hotel Athlone
Registration opens on January 5th 2015
To register visit:
www.irishprimarype.com



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Thank You

Go Raibh Maith Agaibh