

Current Issues in PE in England

**Dr. Richard Fisher
St. Mary's College**

**Jackie Moses
Roehampton
University**

1. Introduction
2. Policy and Practice in Physical Education
3. Curriculum Initiatives
4. Some Developments in Teacher Training
5. Conclusions

Policy and Practice in Physical Education

Introduction of ERA 1988

Main features:

- Centralisation (devolved to schools)
- Market Forces (competition external + internal)
- Parental Choice ('selling product')
- Raising standards (league tables, testing etc)

Issues...

- Budgets based on formula funding (6th form more money)
- Increase school competition – market tactics – free gifts, special areas of expertise – ‘selection by back door’
- Tensions between values/priorities of managers/teachers – finance driving force.

Summary

1970's	1988-1990's	2000 - ???
Equality, equity Personal rights, needs	Standards, excellence Abilities, selectivity, access	Standards, social inclusion Individual needs 'Every Child Matters'
Community schools Teacher professionalism Local state control	Parental choice Different types of schools Central state School governor control	Every school specialist school Current debate - 'Trust Schools'

Drivers of Policy: Sport

- 1995 Sport: Raising the Game (Department of National Heritage)
- 2002 Game Plan (DCMS)
- 2004 The London Plan for Sport and Physical Activity (Sport England, London)

Game Plan

- To encourage mass participation culture
- To enhance international success
- To adopt a different approach to hosting mega sporting events (London 2012)

The London Plan for Sport and Physical Activity (2004)

- Maximising opportunities
- Overcoming barriers
- Providing opportunities
- Helping children and young people – active life styles
- Developing potential
- Changing attitudes

Drivers of Policy: PE

- 1999 National Curriculum for PE
- 2003 National Physical Education, School Sport and Club Links (PESSCL) Strategy
- 2004 High Quality PE and Sport for Young People
- 2005 www.teachernet.gov.uk

England: Core Strands in the National Curriculum

- (i) Acquiring and developing skills
- (ii) Selecting and applying skills
- (iii) Knowledge and understanding of fitness and health
- (iv) Evaluating and improving performance

Primary Age Range

KS1 (5-7 yrs)

Dance / Games / Gymnastic activities

KS2 (7-11 yrs)

These 3 activities

Plus 2 from swimming* / athletics / outdoor and
adventurous activities

* All pupils must go swimming at some point in Primary
years

Secondary Age Range

KS3 (11-14 yrs)

Games / Gymnastic or Dance activities

2 from Swimming / Athletics / Outdoor and Adventurous activities

KS4 (14-16 yrs)

2 of the six areas

PE: 8 Levels of Assessment

Level 1	Copy, repeat and explore simple skills Describe movement
Level 2	More control, co-ordination and variety Can compare movements
Level 3	Select and use skills Understand how to improve
Level 4	Link skills together More fluency and can compare and comment

Level 5	Select and combine skills. Comment in greater depth. Understand how body reacts
Level 6	Higher level of application of skill. Able to plan own work better. Analyse and comment on own progress
Level 7	Advanced skills. Plan own exercise routines
Level 8	Consistently select and apply advanced skills
Exceptional Performance – Originality / Proficiency / Flair	

Issues for Schools

- Ensuring all pupils receive high quality Physical Education
- Lack of specialist knowledge among primary teachers
- High quality initial and ongoing teacher training
- Varied facility and resources provision
- School to club links
- Physical Education and sport interface
- London 2012 and the health agendas

Curriculum Initiatives

Physical Education School Sport and Club Links (PESSCL: 2003)

- Focus on High Quality Physical Education and School Sport
- Over £500 million

UK Response

- 6 main strands
 - Professional Development
 - Physical Education and School Sport Investigation (www.qca.gov.org)
 - Gifted and Talented
 - Step into Sport
 - Swimming
 - Club Links

Overall Objectives

- Increase number of 5-16 year olds who get a minimum of 2hrs Physical Education and School Sport within, or beyond the curriculum. Thus:
 - By 2006 raise to 75%
 - By 2008 increase to 85%

- By 2004 – 50% schools directly benefiting
- By 2006 – reach all schools
- Set up system of specialist sports colleges
 - Sept 2004 = 291
 - School Sport Co-ordinators = 1,700
 - Primary Link Tutors = 19,300

Developments in Teacher Training

Background

- Training and Development Agency promised £1million over 3 years
- Managed by a Consortium – National Association is one of the members
- Appointed 5 Regional Co-ordinators

Roles and Responsibilities

- Improve on quality
- Help to prepare for inspections
- Develop and write resources
- Hold regional and national conferences

PE ITTE Website (www.peitte.net)

- **Materials**
- **Conference information**
- **Regional updates**
- **Discussion**

Conclusions