Active School Innovation of the Year – nomination details

1. Holmesdale Community Infant School (Reigate & Banstead)
2. Long Ditton St. Mary’s Junior School (Elmbridge)
3. Holy Trinity Pewley Down School (Guildford)

1. **Holmesdale Community Infant School**

1. A creative approach to engaging children and young people, including the less active, in PE, school sport and physical activity.

Mr Crobie believes that every child can achieve and given that opportunity, a great learning environment and appropriate practice are key determinants. Instead of prioritising and praising only physical performance “for example, for being the fastest, the most able or finishing a piece of work” he and the staff at Holmesdale now focus on and reward children for effort, perseverance and for giving positive feedback to their peers. This links in nicely with the schools values and parents and children alike have noted the enthusiasm and engagement from staff to allow children to be the best they can be.

My child has grown in confidence, is now more resilient and engaged and I personally put this down to the engagement from Mr Crobie and his staff. Every child has an opportunity and every child is given an opportunity to showcase. My child is a less active child, found sports difficult and had only participated in sports outside of school. Since then, my child now participates in activities which were previously unknown including Boccia and New Age Kurling and has allowed my child to see beyond the difficulties that lay ahead.

He provides the care and attention that every child deserves by providing a unique curriculum based upon previously taught skills and providing the necessary challenges for those children who are more aware of their physical needs. The opportunities to engage the less active, SEN children and those with anxiety about participating in sport has shown that he’s developed a curriculum which allow children to be the best they can be as well as allowing every child to have the opportunity to challenge their inner self belief. His development of extra curriculum activity clubs, physical weekly challenges and lunchtime activities has seen children’s confidence grow, develop and engage all the pupils at the school.

2. The integration of physical activity and healthy lifestyles across the whole school day and the promotion of the benefits of daily physical activity.

The personal well-being of pupils as a school is taking a forefront in education. Brain breaks, active learning and physical activity sessions at lunch time provide each child with opportunities to engage in a healthy and active lifestyle. Mr Crobie’s Sporting Adventure Club has driven children to engage in activities which he provides. It builds on confidence, the promotion of healthy lifestyles and more importantly fun. Activity should be fun and engaging and that’s exactly what he provides.

3. Using sport and physical activity as a tool to make a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of children and young people (including mental health).
My child has anxiety. It’s a known revelation that my child was physically uninterested in sport until Mr Crosbie introduced activities at the school which gave the opportunity to try. This places the learner at the heart of practice. I’ve personally seen the use of thematic approaches, such as role playing explorers going into a jungle, to developing jumping and landing skills. My child wants to go to school. My child wants to learn and engage in physical activity and my child’s mental health and well-being has improved greatly under the care and attention he provides.

4. An increase in the proportion of young people from under-represented groups taking part in regular physical activity.

SEN pupils have also seen good levels of progress in children’s skill development at the school. It’s widely recognised that the opportunities are not just for those who are academically better in sport. Each child achieves success which, in turn, has boosted their confidence, and their willingness to challenge themselves has helped develop resilience.

He’s taken children to local Panathlons and whilst it’s a competition for many, the opportunities for them to take part in sessions developed for their skill base have improved the learning and resilience of these children by giving the SEN/ Less active children opportunity.

5. Delivering programmes to encourage young people and their families to be active together.

Mr Crosbie has developed and enabled an environment in PE where young people feel included, valued, challenged and supported to achieve their maximum potential in school and in life. I, along with the other parents in the school can’t thank Mr Crosbie and the rest of the Holmesdale Staff more than they know so this worthy award is just the ticket for their continued hard work, development and engagement with our children. Thank you.

2. Long Ditton St. Mary’s Junior School

Last Year at Long Ditton St Mary’s we aimed to provide as many opportunities as possible as well as engage all children and staff - and we succeeded!

We provided an extra hour of additional PE each week, which offered an inclusive setting, for those who were considered less active and less experienced in the fundamental skills. These small group sessions had games and activities that were fun and engaging, whilst specifically meeting the needs of the children.

We signed up to the PALSS pledge and committed ourselves to active playtimes with our Sports Crew leading a variety of active sessions throughout the week. Active Homework had a physical activity focus. Regular Brain Breaks saw the children performing dance routines, short circuit sequences, yoga poses and much more.

Our staff led by example through participating in the weekly Joe Wicks workout after school - it was great to put the books down and get social through sweat and laughter. This increased staff morale and teamwork across the school.
Staff and children took part in ‘run the world’ (the mile a day) which the children loved as they tried to improve their distance or got to socialise with those participating including their teachers.

We made links with our local community clubs and had weekly hockey lessons at Surbiton hockey club, since this link many children have taken up hockey outside of school, this link still continues today.

Children have shared their active achievements during assemblies and through the newsletters - whether it was a win, effort or personal best. The celebration of success was and still is vital to encourage and maintain children’s involvement and positive mind set on the things they do.

We organised and ran the girls’ district football tournament to provide sporting opportunities for local schools. Bringing people together through sport was important to us as relationships could be built and the enjoyment could be shared.

We signed up to the ‘WOW year walking to school scheme’ which saw families become more active whilst reaping the benefits of having quality time in doing so.

We received plenty of feedback from parents about the success of sport and how hard St Mary’s had worked to promote the benefits of being active, furthermore offering plenty of opportunities for all to get active. Above all we are maintaining all of this and plan on succeeded further this year.

3. Holy Trinity Pewley Down School

Holy Trinity Pewley Down School is passionate about ensuring that all the children, staff and families that attend the school (as well as live in the wider community of Guildford) benefit from the positive impact of an active lifestyle. We ensure that sport and activity is both inclusive - providing “Sport for All” - as well as aiming for excellence - providing extensive opportunities for healthy competition!

Every week, staff run free sporting clubs for the children (ranging from hockey, to netball, football, cross country, circus skills, dodgeball...the list goes on!). Our inter-school sporting competition programme ensures that more than 70% of the 564 children who attend the school take part in cross-Guildford events, representing HTPD and experiencing the joy of winning! Some children that find it more challenging to take part in sporting activity are encouraged through a highly successful "Change for Life" programme, as well as outdoor learning opportunities in the woods (camp fire building, woodcraft and team games).

We also provide 1:1 adult support for children with SEND who need support to access after school clubs successfully. Our PSHE programme ensures that links are made between an active lifestyle and wellbeing and good mental health.

Following excellent training, teachers ensure that every day is active, with children enthusiastically taking part in daily runs, stimulating PE lessons, and active learning. Our Sport Twitter feed, weekly newsletter and parent communications highlight different activities taking place both in school and in the wider community so that parents are well informed about events that are available across the town. For example our annual fun run,
involving both children, parents and staff is attended by over 300 people. We also encourage families to take part in the Guildford Park Run, with several staff taking part every week. We also have a staff biking club and relaxation classes.

Every year the infant site enjoys "Healthy Week" providing ideas for healthy living to our younger children and giving them tasters of various new sports.

We promote environmentally friendly healthy choices, encouraging families to walk to school or use green methods of transport. The annual Golden Boot Challenge is hotly contested!

The following paragraphs from our school website summarises our active ethos well: "We really believe in the power of sport and link the schools values right the way through everything we do. We are passionate about the power of sport and physical activity at Holy Trinity Pewley Down.

Our dedicated staff are committed to providing a platform for every child to excel and enjoy sporting activities, whatever their prior experience. Every day we see the impact of our enthusiasm for sport in the children. We see changes in the way they see themselves, the pride they have in their school, their commitment to achieving their best and their love of learning. We also notice that Holy Trinity Pewley Down children are open to new experiences and happy to embrace challenge. Witnessing these changes every day gives us the belief in what we are doing and the determination to continue to offer our children every opportunity we can. This is why we have a dedicated sports team who oversee both the curriculum and our extra-curricular sporting activities. As a result we are able to support all of our children, maximising their potential and offering opportunities to all.

Our curriculum PE sessions aim to create a love of physical activity and cater for children of all abilities. We teach a broad range of sports and skills with a number of specialist teachers able to support children in finding their passions. In addition to our curriculum work we have an extensive clubs list offering over 15 different sports clubs each week. Many of these clubs are run for free by our highly qualified group of teachers, either before school, during lunch or after school. Through our sports administrator we are also able to enter our children into many sporting fixtures with local schools. Holy Trinity Pewley Down children have the opportunity to represent the school in football, netball, tag rugby, XC running, biathlon, swimming, athletics, cricket, rounder's, dodgeball and many more. Last year alone children at Holy Trinity Pewley Down competed in over 60 fixtures with other schools. Further to this we believe that the opportunity for competitive sport should be available to everyone, not just a talented few, which is why we run regular house tournaments between our four houses, Shackleton, Keller, Mandela and Nightingale. Our excellence in sport was recently noted by Active Surrey, who awarded us both the Gold standard at the juniors and the Star Mark at the infants for our sports provision."

For all of the above, I would like to nominate Holy Trinity Pewley Down School for its contribution to Active Innovation. It would encourage our staff and children to continue in our quest to prioritise healthy lifestyles and, as our school motto says, to "learn to live"!