



# Active Local Bedwell Opening Schools Facilities

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## Introduction

**Bedwell Primary School successfully secured £20,414.90 in funding through the Opening Schools Facilities (OSF) programme in year three, marking the third successful application for the school. This achievement was possible through the partnership between Kelly Thomas, PE Lead, and Jess Baird, Active Local Officer. Over the course of three years, Bedwell Primary School has received a total investment of just under £75,000. The funding was used to further enhance physical education facilities and provided increased opportunities for students to engage in physical activity.**

## Project background

The Opening Schools Facilities (OSF) funding is a government initiative supported by Sport England and the Department for Education. It aims to improve access to sports and physical activity facilities within schools, allowing them to enhance their existing resources and open them up for use by students and local communities. The funding supports schools in upgrading their sports infrastructure, promoting healthier lifestyles, and increasing participation in physical activity. Through this programme, schools like Bedwell Primary School have been able to create lasting opportunities for students and the wider community to engage in sport outside of school hours.



## Implementation

In Year One, Bedwell Primary School successfully utilised the Opening Schools Facilities (OSF) funding to provide essential sports equipment for morning clubs, SEND lunchtime clubs, and after-school clubs. This equipment supported the delivery of physical activity sessions, ensuring their sustainability as teachers could continue using the resources throughout the year.



Year 2 expanded on these foundations with the introduction of a SEND yoga programme to support students with special educational needs and disabilities working with SEND Yogis CIC, alongside after-school



clubs and evening sessions for students and parents, like mini trampoline fitness. The project also focused on promoting active travel, establishing active travel hubs at classroom doors to encourage cycling and scooting. Working in partnership with the Hertfordshire County Council Active Travel Team, training sessions were offered to parents and children to improve cycling skills. Additionally, girls' football camps were introduced to offer more opportunities for girls to engage in sport and build confidence.

Year 3 saw the project grow even further. The funding supported six community after-school clubs, including karate, golf, theatrical dance, and street dance. A key partnership formed at the PE conference in January 2024 between Kelly Thomas (PE Lead) and the Herts Disability Sports Foundation (HDSF) led to the creation of a boxercise after-school club specifically for SEND students. In collaboration with England Netball, Jess Baird helped implement BEE Netball after-school sessions and



organise five Netball Youth Camps for Bedwell's young people. These camps were a major success, engaging over 130 children during the summer.

The BEE Netball clubs, organised by age group, included a homework club to help students balance academics with sports. Furthermore, the Netball Youth Camps focused on building netball skills such as passing, shooting, and defending, while also incorporating creative activities like mascot design. A highlight of the camps was a visit from England Netball player Aliyah Zaranyika, who inspired the children with a high-jump contest. Thanks to our partnership with Goods for Goods, each participant received Nike-branded clothing, enhancing their experience and fostering a sense of pride.

Overall, these initiatives demonstrate the significant positive impact of community funding and partnerships in fostering confidence, character, and social skills in youth, while promoting a love for sports, teamwork, and physical activity.



**"The OSF funding has been transformative for Bedwell Primary, enhancing the sports facilities and providing students with valuable opportunities to build life skills through sport. It's been key in creating a more active and engaged school community, boosting confidence and teamwork both inside and outside the classroom."**



## Outcomes and Benefits



The outcomes of the OSF funding at Bedwell Primary School have been outstanding, providing students with enhanced sports facilities and a wide range of engaging opportunities. Through after-school clubs, sports camps, and active travel initiatives, students have built confidence, improved physical skills, and developed important life skills like teamwork and resilience. The funding has also fostered stronger community connections, creating a more active and inclusive environment for both students and families. Overall, the initiative has had a lasting positive impact on the well-being and development of the school community.

### Key Learnings

Key learnings from the OSF funding process at Bedwell Primary School include the importance of building strong partnerships with local organizations, such as Hertfordshire County Council and England Netball, to maximize the impact of funding. Engaging the local community early on and offering a diverse range of activities tailored to different needs, from SEND yoga to girls' football camps, has proven essential in encouraging broad participation. Additionally, integrating academic support, like the homework club alongside sports sessions, helped balance students' academic and physical development. Finally, ensuring sustainability through the purchase of quality equipment has empowered teachers to continue delivering impactful programs long after the funding period ends.

## Next Steps

1

### Further Funding

Looking at funding the school could apply to continue projects.

2

### Workforce Development

Offering staff, parents and governors a chance to attend BEE training course



## Conclusion

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In conclusion, the OSF funding has greatly benefited Bedwell Primary School, enhancing facilities and offering students valuable opportunities for physical and personal growth. Through sports clubs and community programs, we've built confidence, teamwork, and resilience. The project's success highlights the importance of partnerships and sustainability, shaping Bedwell's ongoing commitment to student well-being and development.





