

PE Vocabulary Progression Map

Curriculum Intent

Pupils develop an increasingly sophisticated physical education vocabulary from Nursery to Year 6. Vocabulary is deliberately sequenced to support understanding of movement, tactics, performance, health, leadership and evaluation, enabling pupils to communicate confidently about physical activity and sport.

Curriculum Implementation

Key vocabulary is explicitly taught, modelled and revisited through PE lessons. Vocabulary progresses from basic movement language in EYFS, to skill and game language in KS1, before developing technical, tactical and evaluative terminology throughout KS2.

Curriculum Impact

Pupils use subject-specific vocabulary accurately when performing, analysing and improving performance. By the end of Year 6, pupils can discuss tactics, strategy, leadership, performance and personal improvement using age-appropriate technical language.

Vocabulary Progression by Year Group

Year Group	Expected Vocabulary
Nursery	run, walk, jump, hop, balance, climb, throw, catch, kick, safe, healthy
Reception	control, coordination, obstacle, equipment, travel, teamwork, exercise
Year 1	dribble, target, underarm, overarm, strike, racket, rules, agility
Year 2	technique, accuracy, attack, defend, possession, pass, receive
Year 3	tactics, competition, endurance, power, fielding, evaluate
Year 4	strategy, opponent, apparatus, rotation, forehand, backhand, reflection
Year 5	anticipation, exploit space, leadership, stamina, inversion, self-rescue
Year 6	outwit, dispossess, transition, precision, fluency, sportsmanship, personal best

Evidence Of Progression

EYFS: Fundamental movement and health vocabulary.

KS1: Skill acquisition, simple rules and teamwork.

Lower KS2: Tactical awareness, performance and evaluation.

Upper KS2: Strategy, leadership, analysis and sport-specific terminology.

KS3 Ready: Pupils confidently discuss performance, tactics and improvement using technical language.