

Delivering the extended services 'core offer'

Delivering the extended schools 'core offer' in schools

The Government has set out a 'core offer' of extended services and activities that it expects all children, young people and families will be able to access in or through all schools by 2010 (Extended schools: Building on experience, DCSF, June 2007):

- A varied menu of activities (including study support and play) and childcare: For primary schools this means providing access to a varied menu of activities, combined with childcare, from 8am to 6pm, five days a week, 48 weeks a year. In secondary schools this means access to a varied menu of activities which also offer young people a safe place to be from 8am to 6pm during term time and more flexibility in the holidays.
- Parenting support, including family learning.
- Swift and easy access to targeted and specialist services.
- Community access to school facilities.

Schools can offer sports and arts as part of the varied menu of activities, and should look to open up their facilities to meet wider community needs in response to an assessment of local demand.

case study: Brackenbury Infant School, Dorset

This school in Portland, an area of relatively high deprivation, includes sport and arts as part of high quality year round childcare, supported by the West Dorset School Sports Partnership, both before and after school. The school links with Dorset Artsreach – a project to bring local artists into schools to work with teachers, parents and children. Examples of activities taking place involving visiting artists include: DVD making, 3Dart, street dance and a range of craft skills such as wire sculptures, stencils and glass painting. A number of the projects involve family learning, for example a craft project using flotsam and jetsam recovered from Chesil Beach to raise environmental awareness (e.g. waste management and recycling).

To find out more, go to www.dorsetforyou.com

case study: Robert Hitcham Primary School, Suffolk

This rural primary school is working with the Suffolk Children's Service Area Extended Schools Officer and partner agencies. It offers sport and arts activities run by parents, teachers and private organisations both as part of year round childcare, linking with the local leisure centre, and in homework clubs and study support. Family learning and parent support – such as family literacy and numeracy classes – form part of the overall offer. Multi-agency support groups are on hand enabling early intervention, targeted support and appropriate referral for children and their families.

To find out more, go to www.suffolk.gov.uk/EducationAndLearning/Schools/

In the arts, national partnerships and programmes – notably Arts Award and Arts Extend (developing sustainable arts programmes in and around Extended Schools) – involve working with local authorities, groups of schools, voluntary sector arts organisations and local artists to increase the range and quality of arts opportunities during and outside curriculum time. In sport, the School Sport Partnerships (SSPs) are increasing sport opportunities and physical literacy for all children and young people in curriculum time and out of school hours.

A community approach includes, but is wider than, providing children with a menu of activities. Sport and arts opportunities can encourage greater parental involvement in children's learning, e.g. through providing volunteering opportunities for parents, developing parents' skills, increasing their aspirations and encouraging greater parental involvement in their children's learning.

case study: Luminare - Telford & Wrekin Council Arts Extend project launch

Nine schools working with a variety of artists created Luminare, the public launch for the 'Arts Extend Telford' programme – one of nine across the country – held in March 2007. For this event young people in each of the nine partner schools worked with artists to explore and be inspired by the themes of light, regeneration and new beginnings. Using sculpture, animation, mask, music, dance and visual art (and concluding with a firework display), they created an arts event for all the family in the town park that celebrated the seasonal change from Winter to Spring. Arts Extend Telford plans to develop a programme of high quality, sustainable arts provision within extended schools services.

To find out more go to: www.artsextendtelford.com