

NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

Circular Letter: G000-10

To: Headteachers FAO :

- **Secondary/High School Physical Education HoDs**
- **Primary, Middle, First & Special School PE Coordinators/PLTs**

Your Ref: AB/lm

Our Ref:

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Date: 5th July 2010

Dear Colleagues

Subject: Important information on Primary Curriculum ,Key Stage 3 level descriptions in PE and the 2010 -11 PESS CPD programme

Purpose: Provision of a key update on National Curriculum Physical Education and Assessment in PE in light of recent announcements from the new coalition Government

Action:	Consider and disseminate to colleagues
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Before this hectic and busy summer term comes to a close I felt it important to write to you to provide you with some clarification on recent announcements relating to **National Curriculum** and **Assessment in PE**. In these changing and challenging times it is crucial that you have your finger on the pulse and are able to lead the development of High Quality PESS with an up to date knowledge and understanding of curriculum development and forthcoming **CPD opportunities**.

1. Primary Curriculum: The previous Government accepted recommendations put forward by Sir Jim Rose to implement a new primary curriculum from September 2011. After considerable investment in terms of time, money, materials and CPD, Ministers announced on 7 June 2010 that the new coalition Government does not intend to proceed with the new primary curriculum.

Ministers are committed to giving schools more freedom from unnecessary prescription and bureaucracy. They have made clear their intentions to make changes to the National Curriculum that will ensure a relentless focus on the basics and give teachers more flexibility than the proposed new primary curriculum offered.(DfE website)

The Government intends to return the National Curriculum to its intended purpose – a minimum national entitlement organised around subject disciplines – and will shortly announce its next steps. It is *thought* that there may possibly be a joint primary and secondary curriculum review , which would make some sense as the recent primary curriculum review seemed somewhat misaligned with *new world class secondary curriculum* changes .



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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Guidance:

1. **In the meantime, the existing primary curriculum will continue to be in force through 2011/12 and schools should plan on that basis.** Some schools and PE departments have already made innovative changes, not necessarily to the content of what they are teaching, but to creative curriculum planning, using the Npess L.A. CPD programme and new approaches to help them improve teaching, learning and AfL in PE.
2. **Schools should** continue to interpret and adapt curriculum to meet the needs of their children/students and to make the most of their local context. Schools linking curriculum learning with participation opportunities provided by their School Sport Partnerships combined with specialist support from the LA through the PE SLA and their SS Co are seeing the greatest improvements in attitude, participation, enjoyment and progress in PESS across whole school.(refer to the 10 High quality pupil outcomes document and the QCA making a difference publications on www.npess.co.uk
3. **Schools are now being advised to** continue to use Curriculum 2000 and information on the statutory requirements for Physical Education to guide planning, teaching ,learning and assessment .The PE schemes of work and original medium term plans can still be accessed via <http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/schemes2/phe/?view=get> .These are useful and link clearly to the *exemplification of core tasks* resource (available with accompanying whole school / cluster training through the Physical Education SLA or).

For more national information please go to: <http://www.education.gov.uk/curriculum> , <http://www.afpe.org.uk/> or keep locally updated via our Npess website www.npess.co.uk

2. Assessment: Ministers have also decided not to proceed with the revised level descriptions (which were due to come into force for Key Stage 3 from this September. Secondary schools should therefore continue to use existing level descriptions)

Following the DfE announcements regarding information on the primary curriculum and Key Stage 3 level descriptions (see news article from 08/06/10 on the Association for PE & Npess websites) the DfE have shared the following message with afPE:

There is some confusion about which level descriptions are the existing ones.

- ***The `new' level descriptions that we are not proceeding with are those which QCDA consulted upon between May and July last year and which were to come into force from September. They were revised (mainly) to take account of the Rose primary proposals, although some minor changes were also made to the levels set out in the secondary handbook. The intention was to provide one complete set of level descriptions that would replace those in both the secondary curriculum handbook and the primary curriculum handbook. As we are not proceeding with the Rose proposals we are not introducing the revised level descriptions.***
- ***The existing level descriptions which schools should continue to use are in fact those in the secondary curriculum handbook published in 2007***

Guidance:

1. **Until further notice, schools should use the level descriptions contained in the secondary curriculum handbook for any end of key stage 3 statutory assessment for pupils who began year 7 after 1st August 2008** i.e. those pupils completing Year 9 in 2011.
2. **A consolidated set of the level descriptions which should be used are attached/enclosed** .These are drawn from the primary curriculum handbook (1999) for levels 1-3, and from the secondary curriculum handbook (2007) for levels 4 – 8 and exceptional performance. They can be found at:
 - <http://curriculum.gcda.gov.uk/key-stages-3-and-4/subjects/key-stage-3/physical-education/Level-descriptions/index.aspx> or www.npess.co.uk – go to news page or curriculum – assessment section
 - For more national updates and information please go to: <http://www.education.gov.uk/curriculum> which is being updated as and when announcements are being made .

3. National PESS CPD Programme in Northumberland

Over 1350 Northumberland PESS CPD engagements were recorded from March 2009 – April 2010 and this important programme has resulted in considerable impact on both adults engaging in the programme and children and young people in our schools.(Please refer to the successful *impact of the CPD programme in Northumberland - 2009 -10 AfPE report* ,available on the Npess website)

Despite impending reductions in National funding to LDA`s from March 2011,we will soon be promoting and circulating the 2010 -11 Northumberland PESS CPD programme and booklet. Our 10 -11 programme may be slightly reduced, due to possible withdrawal of TDA funding for HLTA /TA CPD, however our key partners (Sports Colleges and Northumberland School Sport Partnerships) continue to support us in the planning and delivery of High Quality PESS CPD across Northumberland .

Please look out for your school copy of the CPD brochure which should be with you before the end of this term. Electronic copies will be available to download from the Npess website from mid- late July.

Best wishes for a rewarding and refreshing summer break

Yours sincerely



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