



# Celebrating PE & School Sport through School Games Mark awards

Natalie Lawrence

## WHICH AREA OF THE SGO TASK LIST DOES THIS IMPACT?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | Increasing engagement in School Games                           |
| 2 | Developing competitive opportunities                            |
| 3 | Increasing and sustaining participation                         |
| 4 | Workforce – Broadening the range of participation opportunities |

## ABOUT NATALIE

Northampton SGO Natalie Lawrence works three days per week as an SGO and services the SSP's enhanced work for the rest of the week. Natalie covers 79 schools in the urban area of Northamptonshire with mixed levels of deprivation.

Natalie Lawrence, Northampton SGO  
[N.Lawrence@northampton-academy.org](mailto:N.Lawrence@northampton-academy.org)



## WHY

- The SGO was about to go on maternity leave when School Games Mark was launched. Upon her return from maternity leave, the only schools that had applied were the keen ones that had used their own initiative and had heard of School Games Mark from national partners because the covering SGO had not prioritised it.
- The SGO wanted to increase School Games Mark applications.



## ACTION

- Initially the SGO developed a set of 'School Games Mark dividers' for PE Coordinators to use in their evidence file.
- Each divider was linked to specific School Games Mark criteria. On the divider was a checklist of everything the school needed to do to hit that criteria and also included a checklist of the evidence needed to be inserted behind the file divider.
- Each school was then supported to build a School Games Mark folder of evidence using the file dividers. Using the file dividers made the whole process easier and helped PE Coordinators to break down all the criteria into an easier format.
- The SGO developed this a little further and started to book in 'mid-term reviews' with schools. This involved a meeting with the PE Coordinator and/or the Head Teacher.
- In the 'mid-term review' the SGO helped schools to go through their evidence file. Whilst at the meeting the SGO typed up an action plan to help the schools identify what else they needed to do to successfully hit the criteria.
- Finally, the SGO has now developed an action plan for each of the levels for School Games Mark.
- The SGO still meets schools. The schools decide what level of School Games Mark they are applying for and the SGO takes the school through this action plan. The SGO types this up in the meeting. Copies of the action plan are sent to Head Teachers and shared with all staff in the school.



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## NEXT

- The SGO doesn't really have any further steps planned at the moment. The whole process has evolved over the years to the action plans and they are proving very successful.
- Other SGOs are now using the action plans with their schools.
- The SGO will just need to tweak the action plans annually linked to any changes in the criteria.



## TIPS

- Have face-to-face contact with your schools. This can be done through small clusters of meetings or on a one-to-one basis.
- Visit schools so they value the School Games Mark.
- Ensure the schools know you are their point of contact for any questions.
- Ensure you have Head Teacher engagement by sharing information with them too.
- Encourage PE Coordinators to share their action plans with all staff in their school.

