

IF IT AIN'T BROKE, FIX IT! LONG TERM PLANNING IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION

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What if it isn't really broken,
BUT we can find ways of making it even better?

Or, what if it **IS** broken,
and we just don't know it?

Generally speaking, in most primary and intermediate schools across the country, long term planning for physical education is approached in the same manner and may look a little like this, or some variation of this:

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Swimming Summer Sports or Small Ball Skills	Large Ball Skills or Winter Sports	Gymnastics and Cross Country	Athletics

This yearly overview is driven by a few common factors:

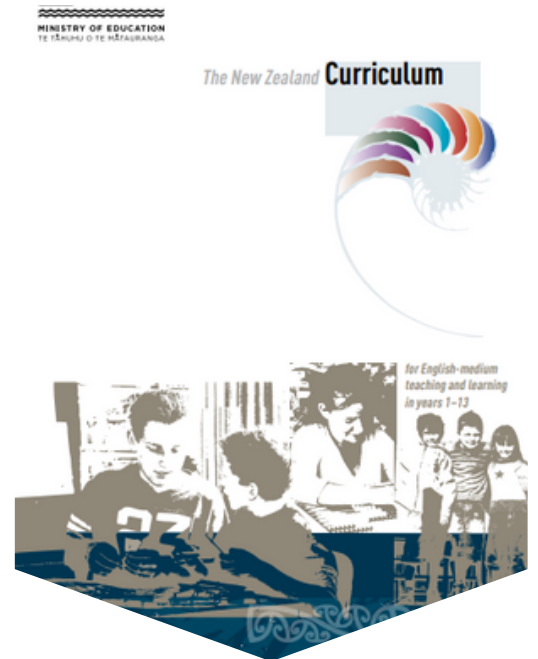
- Tradition/historical practices
- Interschool calendar of events
- Seasonal suitability

Brace yourself!! Are you ready for this?

Your PE programme

does NOT have to be bound by any of these things!

Our NZC is developed in such a way that we have the flexibility to deliver the learning our students need through any context we can possibly dream up. Imagine taking full advantage of this!



We talk about a localised curriculum, but for many schools, this is yet to extend to long term planning for physical education.

What could effective long term planning look like in PE?



- Not really any different to your effective practices in other learning areas that you plan yearly.
- Format your yearly plan in a way that works for your school. Chances are you are already using an effective format in other areas of learning – transfer this to PE.
- Come together as a staff to plan the bigger picture so that everyone is part of the journey and can all be on the same page. (Its ok for the nitty gritty planning to be done in smaller teams, syndicates, individual teachers once you have the bigger ideas in place.
- Start with what you know about your students. What are their learning needs over the year? What is it they are struggling with? What does your community see as important for you student to know? What are your school values?
- Revisited and planned every year to be needs based, relevant, connected and to provide variety.

Possibly something like this...

Term	Student Needs - What is going on for my learners?	Concept - What is the learning?	Possible Contexts - How will they learn?
1	<p>Bonding as a class, getting to know each other, working together, leadership, knowing games and places to play in break times</p>	<p>What's my role Collaboration Making playtime fun</p>	<p>Co-operative games Adventure Based Learning games Playground games and spaces</p>
2	<p>Not giving up Dealing with winning and losing What happens when things get hard or I don't like it</p>	<p>Challenge Resilience</p>	<p>Competitive games Cross Country Circus skills Aquatics / Water Safety</p>
3	<p>Strategic play Using strategies in play Knowing a variety of strategies to be successful</p>	<p>'Hope is not a strategy' James Cameron</p> <p>'Strategy is figuring out what not to do' Steve Jobs</p>	<p>Invasion games Challenge games</p>
4	<p>Connecting to their local community Identifying how they can play a role in their community</p>	<p>What's in my community for me? How can I support / give back to my community? Volunteering</p>	<p>Visit or invite to school local community organisations - Rec centre, library, sport provider (gym, indoor, pool, ten pin) op shops, fire stations, charities</p>

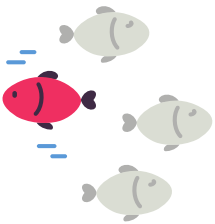
What does this mean for quality long term planning in Physical education?



- Questioning what the purpose of your students learning is in physical education.



- Being open minded to critically review your current programme, **broken or not.**



- Being brave enough to step away from the 'common' model and develop something different.



- Taking the time to engage with the HPE curriculum and develop a **yearly** plan that meets the needs of the students (rather than the factors mentioned earlier)



- Being ok with taking a journey. It will be hard, it will require change, it might not all go smoothly. And that is ok!

For more information on planning, see our other articles:

- Planning doesn't have to look different
- Effective planning in physical education

penz.org.nz - Year 1-8 Articles



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Dec 2023