



SPORTS PREMIUM 2025-2026

EVIDENCE AND PROPOSED ACTIONS INCLUDING EXPENDITURE

At Brackenfield SEND School, pupils present with diverse sensory profiles, including under-responsiveness, sensory seeking, and over-responsiveness across systems such as vestibular (movement), proprioception (body awareness), tactile, auditory, visual, and interoception (internal body cues). These sensory differences significantly impact pupils' ability to regulate emotions, engage in learning, and participate in physical and social activities.

Why It Matters

- **Foundation for Lifelong Regulation:** Sensory processing underpins self-regulation. When pupils receive appropriate sensory input—through movement, deep pressure, tactile exploration—they develop strategies to manage arousal, anxiety, and attention. These skills are essential for independence and emotional resilience throughout life.
- **Physical Development:** Targeted sensory activities (e.g., heavy work, vestibular input) strengthen core stability, coordination, and motor planning. This supports gross and fine motor skills, enabling pupils to access PE, play, and everyday functional tasks.
- **Mental Health and Wellbeing:** Unmet sensory needs can lead to dysregulation, distress, and withdrawal, increasing vulnerability to mental health challenges. Conversely, structured sensory diets and inclusive physical environments promote calm, confidence, and positive engagement—reducing stress and enhancing wellbeing.
- **Educational Progress:** Sensory regulation is a prerequisite for attention and learning. By embedding sensory strategies into daily routines and PE, pupils are better able to focus, communicate, and achieve curriculum goals.

Strategic Imperative

Investing in sensory-informed practice and equipment is not optional—it is a statutory and ethical responsibility aligned with SEND Code of Practice and whole-child development principles. Through the PE and Sport Premium, Brackenfield can create sustainable improvements by:

- Providing shared sensory equipment for active regulation.
- Training staff to integrate sensory strategies into PE and movement breaks.
- Embedding sensory diets into the school day to support readiness for learning and focus.

Long-Term Impact

Meeting sensory needs now builds the foundation for lifelong physical health, emotional regulation, and social participation. It reduces future dependency, enhances quality of life, and supports pupils to thrive in education and beyond.

Budget Summary

Approved by Governors 9th February 2026 Minute number 2012
Gemma Watts
Chair of Governors

- Equipment: £10–12k
- CPD & coaching: £3–5k
- Maintenance: £1–2k

Impact Indicators

- Increased structured daily physical activity minutes
- Decreased dysregulation incidents during/after PE
- Increased staff confidence in sensory-informed PE
- Evidence of sustainable improvements (equipment in use, routines embedded)

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ACTION PLAN 2025-2026

Objective	Actions	Resources/Equipment	Staff Training & CPD	Timeline	Impact Measures
1. Sensory-inclusive daily movement	Create indoor vestibular hubs and outdoor active regulation zones	Indoor swings, rocker chairs, therapy balls, balance boards, wobble cushions; Outdoor mini trampolines, scooter boards, push/pull carts, playground fitness trail	CPD on sensory-informed PE and active playtimes	Autumn Term	Increased engagement in movement breaks; reduction in dysregulation incidents
2. Heavy-work integration	Install heavy-work stations and provide tactile resources	Weighted boxes, resistance bands, sled/trolley, sensory trays, textured mats, messy play kits	Practical training on heavy-work activities and safe facilitation	Autumn–Spring	Pupils demonstrate improved regulation and readiness for learning
3. Inclusive environments for PMLD	Adapt spaces for passive sensory input	Positioning wedges, tilt-in-space seating, weighted blankets	CPD on PMLD PE facilitation and passive movement	Spring Term	Increased comfort and engagement signals during PE
4. Staff capability and confidence	Deliver tiered CPD and coaching cycles	Resource bank: sensory PE activity cards, visual schedules	3 CPD sessions: Sensory PE, Active Playtimes, PMLD PE; PE Lead coaching	Autumn–Summer	Staff confidence scores improve; observed use of adaptive strategies
5. Monitoring & sustainability	Track engagement and regulation outcomes; publish DfE report	afPE monitoring templates; DfE digital reporting tool	Training on impact reporting and sustainability planning	Ongoing; final report by July	Evidence of sustainable improvements and compliance with grant conditions

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