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| **Project: Refurbishing a Disused School Swimming Pool****Context:**The school, situated in a community of low affluence and high social deprivation, has used some of its funding to get its on site swimming pool back to a functional level, enabling it to offer a swimming programme to all pupils.A survey identified that a large percentage of pupils did not access swimming at all (other than the compulsory lesson in year 3). The school is working effectively with an established community organisation to deliver safe and effective school-time and non-school time swimming lessons and water confidence sessions.Previously, despite having a pool on site, the school did not have the budget to refurbish it, train their staff appropriately and maintain its upkeep costs. |
| **Actions:**Through the school’s relationship with a local swim specialist company they were able to team-teach the classes (class teacher and specialist teacher). This led to higher quality lessons and resulted in greater progression levels amongst the children. This was also highly effective for staff development as class teachers could see a professional swim teacher at work and learn techniques from them directly.The swimming programme consisted of a full term of lessons for every class in the school.All school staff undertook a swim teaching and pool safety qualification to ensure they were appropriately trained when they took lessons alone.The school made swimming a central focus for pupils, discussing it in assemblies, linking it to healthy living topics and directly to the creation of a school sports house system to help improve behaviour and academic focus.**Impact**Teachers observed that all pupils were growing in confidence and ability, not just at swimming but also at PE and in their academic work.Given that almost all of the children had no swimming experience, everyone started from the same point, creating a level playing field of experience. This had a positive effect on other elements of PE by fostering an appreciation of different abilities. The initiative has been met with real positivity throughout the school, from both the pupils, teachers and parents and resulted in an enhanced curriculum. A house point system, started after the introduction of swimming, also improved behaviour. There was also an increased in children taking up swimming outside school. |