The school has overhauled its approach to PE. It has gone from being a marginal activity to being central to the enthusiasm that this successful school has generated. Amongst the stand out features are:

- A passion to use the environment inside and outside the school in the most creative way to engage children (cross country, forest schools, residential and even sailing trips!)
- Continuous vigorous activity for over 45 minutes to avoid the stop-start approach to PE lessons
- Use of a practical assessment system based on ‘I can’ statements to show children’s progress with skills
- Team work has been created with a super positive attitude fostered through cooperation in Forest Schools and outdoor learning activities
- Sensory circuits every day to support children with special needs
- High profile celebrations of sporting achievements at the school
- Improved attendance, behaviour and academic achievement have all followed the improvements in PE and school sport
- Children that were disaffected in year 5, now transformed into sports leaders in the school

Resilient learners have been created. Children are stronger, they try harder, keep eye contact and understand the need for activity.

Creative use of funding has allowed team teaching that has in turn revolutionised differentiation. Classes are combined and practice is shared. This has led to much stronger progression for children.

How has this been achieved?
St Mary & St John C.E.V.A. School has:

✓ Reviewed all facilities and been creative in developing PE spaces
✓ Committed to significant CPD through team teaching
✓ Introduced a wide range of activities that inspire children
✓ Linked the work to healthy schools
✓ Worked through the Sports Partnership and with Uppingham Community College
✓ Invested in play boxes for play times
✓ Got involved in competitions in and out of school

“PE and sport is awesome! You are with your friends and it’s fun. We get the chance to take part in lots of different activities and competitions, inter-house and as a school against other schools.”

School Pupil

“We have put the teachers in charge! We have developed a team approach to training, planning, delivery and assessment. It has transformed the ethos of our school. Our children were too passive... they’re not now!”

Fiona Wilce - Head Teacher