

BEDMINSTER DOWN



Opening Schools Facilities Fund



We wanted to find a club that might appeal to a different clientele than our normal 'football/rugby/netball' type clubs. We try to offer a wide range of clubs in the hope that different pupils will be tempted by them. After engaging in pupil voice, in the last 12 months OSF funding has allowed the delivery of Skateboarding, Cheerleading, Tennis, Boxercise, Golf and Short Mat Bowls.

Our Short Mat Bowls Club was largely focussed on SEND pupils and those currently not engaging in any of our after-school clubs. Our pupils can try an activity that they otherwise wouldn't have been able to. The vast majority of the pupils who've turned up are on our SEND register and most of these don't have the confidence to attend any of our PE clubs.



We had one pupil, Buddy Bush, who is a lovely chap, but who can get quite anxious. He came to the Bowls club when we started it, and only a few months later the coach entered him in the Avon U18's Championships. He made it all the way to the final, only losing on the last bowl, and is now going to be representing Avon in the National Championships. He also now leads the bowls club sessions if the coach isn't able to make it.

It is wonderful to see how confident and assured Buddy is. When he did so well in the Avon Championships, his Mum and Dad were apparently in tears, and it's a great example of the difference this funding can make. Without the funding we wouldn't have been able to run this club, and Buddy and his family would not have experienced these achievements.



Now that OSF funding has come to an end we have SEND support staff here who are going to keep the Bowls Club running every week once the coach has stopped coming. Linked to Physical Literacy, our hope is that the wide range of clubs we offer will help more pupils here find a sport that they will connect and engage with and therefore carry on participating in, once they have left school.