



EXMOUTH LEARNING COMMUNITY
GYMNASTICS COMPETITION: Year 5/6
March 2017

Gymnastics was a new competition for the Exmouth Learning Community schools. The event was sponsored by a local Exmouth firm, Carpet King who kindly gave medal for the winning sides. This support was much appreciated.



The competition had two judged sections to it which were an individual floor piece and a basic vault. Schools were given the appropriate resources beforehand, including a “movie” of both pieces for them to practise with their teams. A team consisted of 6 pupils with at least 2 being boys and 2 being girls. There were two pools to the competition; competitive and recreational, dictated by whether a team had a child in it who attends an external gym club for two or more sessions per week. This allowed all schools to be able to take part from the beginners to more experienced performers. In addition to the two judged sections all pupils took part in a “group” balance section which they tried to replicate pictures of quite complex balances in 2’s and 3’s and then find ways in and out of these. At the end of the event all the gymnasts had a chance to show their balances if they wanted to, and to watch the “pros” from ECC and the Marpool Boys Team perform. This team had just been placed 4th in a National competition and it was great to have the Year 4 boys as role models.

17 teams took part, which was fantastic. Although maybe a little unsure at the start of this new activity, at the end there was very positive feedback; particularly how it offered “different” children from the normal games players to excel and represent their school.

There were many nervous children before the competition started but many happy faces when they had finished at it wasn’t as “scary” as they thought!



The “judges” were students from Exmouth Community College and most have an excellent background in gym which enabled them to support the younger gymnasts. The floor and vault judging areas were skilfully managed by two ECC Post 16 students who demonstrated great maturity in making these areas work. ECC also provided extra members of staff to make sure everything ran smoothly. Marpool Primary School was used as the venue which has two halls, (one even clutter free), side by side. This was a great venue and thanks to Marpool for hosting this event.

The great thing is that many staff would now like to see a Year 3/4 similar event so gymnastics, which gives such important core skills to a child, was definitely the winner!



Position	Competitive	Recreational
1 st	St Peters 1	St Peters 3
2 nd	St Josephs	Marpool
3 rd	Marpool & St Peters 2	Exeter Road
4 th	Woodbury	St Peters 4
5 th	Beacon	Brixington
6 th	Lypstone	Beacon
7 th	Drakes	Woodbury
8 th	Brixington	Otterton

