

Active Schools Midlothian

Strengthening our approach to equalities and inclusion

Cost of Sport and Physical Activity Audit Summary

Introduction

As part of our commitment to the cost of the school day to reduce inequalities and remove the barriers to participation, Active Schools have carried out a review of costs associated with our school sport and physical activity clubs, which take place before school, lunchtimes and after school.

Active Schools is committed to inclusion and supports partners to ensure inclusion underpins everything that takes place within Active Schools. The Active Schools approach is aligned to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC). In Active Schools and school sport, all children and young people should feel like they belong and are part of something which will make a difference to their life. They should be welcomed, valued and given equal access and opportunity, removing discrimination and other barriers to their involvement. The review took place in February 2022 of activity between August and December of the 2021-22 school year across all schools in Midlothian. The review considered costs associated with sport or physical activity (PA) fees for participation and the findings are noted below.

- 103 individual sport or physical activity clubs took place across the primary, secondary and ASN schools during this period.
- 42% of the 103 sports or PA clubs were delivered by volunteers and therefore free of any charge.
- 5% of the 103 sports or PA clubs were funded and therefore free of any charge.
- All 38 sports and PA clubs delivered to Secondary pupils were free and did not incur a charge to the participant
- 53% of the 103 sports and PA clubs incurred a charge of which 66% involved payment to a local club and the remaining 34% were delivered by council payroll coaches.



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- 99% of sports and PA clubs solely for Primary pupils incurred a charge
- Of the 53% sports and PA clubs which incurred a charge £1.80 per session was the average for school based clubs and £3.80 for cluster/community based clubs.
- All primaries offering opportunities on site with the exception of two had at least one activity which incurred a charge (at the time of the audit not all schools were delivering extra-curricular activity due to COVID)
- The review also highlighted inequalities across schools, with some schools offering all sport and physical activity free of charge and other schools charging for all or some activities
- The review clearly points towards the area of primary provision being the area of focus to make the required impact towards all Active Schools Clubs free at the point of use.