

Active Schools Midlothian

Strengthening our approach to equalities and inclusion

Head Teacher, School Staff & PTA Information

Dear Sir/Madam,

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.



Active Schools Midlothian

Strengthening our approach to equalities and inclusion

- 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.

From discussing the findings with Schools Group Management Team and with your help and support, we would like to phase out all costs associated with Active Schools sport and PA clubs that take place before school at lunchtime and after school from the start of the new academic school year in August 2022. To ensure all children and young people in Midlothian have the same opportunities to take part. To do this we are proposing the following for consideration.

- Active Schools to work with schools to phase out the costs associated with all extra-curricular activity currently provide.
- Active Schools will grow and develop a network of volunteers such as parents, school staff, senior pupils and students to deliver opportunities.
- Active Schools will look to utilise school funds such as the Pupil Equity Fund, Parent Teacher Association funds or other external or council sources where funding is required to pay for delivery of activity sessions or transport. Active Schools will continue to administer and organise these opportunities



Active Schools Midlothian

Strengthening our approach to equalities and inclusion

- Sport or physical activity clubs organised by Active Schools taking place at leisure centres/pavilions and some other Midlothian sites such as clubs own facilities will be remodelled at a later date as part of a two part approach.

This approach in time should ensure that all Active Schools activities taking place at all sites will be free to the child. It is likely in some schools that the number and range of opportunities offered by Active Schools will be reduced in the short term until we establish and build on this new model.

We would welcome your support and feedback on this matter, please contact AS-feedback@midlothian.gov.uk in the first instance.

Regards,

Scott Montgomery
Active Schools Team Leader (Acting)

