

Merton School Sport Partnership

Report Summary

September 2019 – July 2022

Background

Merton School Sport Partnership is located in the London Borough of Merton and was established in September 2003 through the government funded national PE School Sport & Club Links programme. The Partnership is formed of 44 primary schools, 11 secondary schools and 4 special schools / pupil referral units (PRUs).

In September 2011, due to a reduction in government funding, MSSP reduced in size and became a self-funded entity via a range of avenues but predominantly through its key stakeholders - Merton state schools and academies. Since then the Partnership has expanded and now also provides a specialist sports provision service, professional development programme and has developed its own Schemes of Work for Primary PE. The majority of the Partnership's programmes and work remit target children at Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 with more bespoke programmes targeting Key Stages 3, 4 and 5.

Since 2018-19 MSSP has been awarded funding from Public Health Merton to operate the Healthy Schools London awards programme for schools within the borough.

In the pupil census report of July 2022, Merton state schools and academies had around 26,676 students on roll from EYFS to KS4. Of these 535 attended a special school, 17,671 mainstream students were studying at Early Years Foundation Stage and KS 1/2 and 9,005 at KS 3/4.

Children and young people in Merton experience good health outcomes compared to regional and national benchmarks but there is inequality within Merton.

In Merton, over 1 in 12 (8.7%) of Reception-aged children and 1 in five (20.1%) of Year 6 children were estimated by the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) to be obese in 2019/20. Although these proportions are lower than or similar to England and London levels, there are significant inequalities in Merton with greater levels of childhood overweight and obesity in East Merton compared to West Merton. Significant inequalities in childhood obesity and overweight exist in the UK by gender, ethnicity, socio economic status, geography, and disability. For example, children living in the most deprived areas are twice as likely to be classified obese as children in the least.

Impact of the Pandemic on MSSP Planning, Actions and Review

Timeline for Reference

Sept 2019 – Aug 2020

Started the year as planned in Sept 2019 with pandemic beginning in March 2020. MSSP work remit and processes changed dramatically from the Partnership Plan with no MSSM completed in July 2020.

Sept 2020 – Aug 2021

The Pandemic continued to have major impact on MSSP work remit. Plans were short term and reactive to situation, no MSSM completed in July 2021. MSSP worked in consultation with PH Merton to try and deliver events in person in the summer term where possible, this however was very limited.

Sept 2021 – Aug 2022

MSSP proceeded to revert back to pre-covid plans at the start of the year, beginning with an 'in person' conference, but with some restrictions and therefore sudden changes to remit. We planned a full calendar of 'in person' events/CPD but these were affected by some local restrictions around the Christmas period, and staffing was still a major problem for schools and MSSP due to covid.

Merton SSP Context

During the turbulent period when Covid was prevalent and severely restricting activities between March 2020 to April 2021, MSSP like other organisations, had to dramatically reinvent how they were able to deliver their programmes of work. During this time MSSP diverted from our planned activities and work remit for the year 2019-2020 to meet the new restrictions in place for the pandemic and guidance from Public Health England/Merton. The core staff team worked remotely from home or within schools, supporting activities for key worker children. Our events were cancelled and the Merton School Sport Mark award and Partnership Plan was put on hold as our network faced a completely different way of working and new set of priorities.

The Partnership continued to deliver PE Coaching Services to schools, sent out newsletters to support schools with the promotion of health and wellbeing, provided a series of virtual sports competitions and engaged with PE Coordinators and other school staff over the phone and virtually by delivering several CPD opportunities to support PE and Physical Activity delivery in schools. During lockdowns, MSSP also developed a new **Merton School Sport Partnership YouTube Channel** where we created a huge array of video content to encourage pupils with a range of abilities and access to space, at home or at school to have access to opportunities to be physically active. Our thanks go to the family members of the MSSP team who volunteered their time to appear and be involved in the videos. The channel now hosts 65 Home PE Daily Challenges, 8 Home PE Lesson Plans and worksheets, 10 EYFS activity ideas, 10 KS1 activity ideas, 13 KS2 activity ideas, 5 Virtual Games Challenges and a host of CPD sessions for anyone to access.

During Summer term 2021 we reintroduced some face to face events and competitions with Covid protocols in place as advised by Public Health Merton. Following on from this, we started the academic year 2021-22 with a full calendar of events with some activities limited by restrictions that were still in place due to Covid guidance.

A full time member of the core staff team left their position in December and in such turbulent times, recruitment of staff proved difficult, an interim replacement was only available from January-March so core staff team had to fill the gaps and cover their duties and commitments. Members of the coaching staff also left their position mid-year which had to be covered by the core staff team to ensure school provision was maintained.

Our Vision

‘To inspire **all** of our young people to achieve their best and to be confident within PE, sport and physical activity. We want our students to have positive experiences and enjoy a range of sport and physical activities and to lead healthy lifestyles throughout their time at school and into adulthood.

Our co-ordinated, partnership approach will provide effective channels of communication and delivery; ensuring all schools work collaboratively, sharing resources, knowledge and facilities. Our teachers and coaches will be confident to deliver high quality, fun, engaging PE lessons to children of varying abilities and sport will be embedded into the ethos of our schools.’

Aims & Objectives

In order to achieve our long-term vision for Merton’s students we have seven key objectives which are based on the needs of our Merton schools and the national landscape for PE, school sport and PA. Our objectives are as follows (*see in brackets for link to the AfPE Key Indicators for the Primary PE and Sports Premium funding*):

1. **PE Curriculum** (PPESP Key Indicator: 1)

Provision of at least 100 minutes (50 minutes of Physical Development for EYFS) of progressive, active and engaging curriculum PE per week (across 2 separate lessons on different days) for all children.

2. **Physical Activity** (PPESP Key Indicator: 1)

All children are enthused and able to be physically active for at least 60 minutes per day (minimum 30 mins within school time) with particular attention to those from disadvantaged backgrounds and those that are currently less active.

3. **Whole School Ethos** (PPESP Key Indicator: 2)

Raise the profile of and celebrate sport, PE, physical activity, play and wellbeing across the ethos of the whole school. Highlighting the importance of respecting others, positive attitudes and fair play. Utilise physical activity to contribute to the positive mental health and well-being of children.

4. **Range of Activity** (PPESP Key Indicator: 4)

Children have access to and enjoy a range of different sports, physical activities, leadership opportunities and unstructured play.

5. **Competitions** (PPESP Key Indicator: 5)

All children are able to take part in and enjoy competitive sport.

6. **Swimming** (PPESP Key Indicator: N/A)

All children are able to be safe in the water and develop as competent swimmers.

7. **Workforce Development** (PPESP Key Indicator: 3)

All staff and volunteers receive the training and support to enable and inspire them to deliver our aims effectively.

Inclusion

We seek for all of our objectives to be inclusive and accessible to all children with specific and targeted approaches to children with special educational needs and disabilities, those that are less engaged and children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Highlights 2021-22

In 2021 -22 we were able to survey schools and gather data to demonstrate impact and activities levels within the Partnership.



- ✓ 61 Primary Sport Events delivered
- ✓ 100% of schools provide 2 hours of PE per week
- ✓ 709 teams represented their school
- ✓ 8382 Primary School pupils represented their school
- ✓ A Merton school won the London Youth Games Tri-Golf competition for the fifth consecutive year (St Teresa's twice and Poplar for a third time)
- ✓ 341 Secondary School pupils supported events through the Sports Leadership programme.
- ✓ 53 Early Career Teachers trained in the delivery of PE
- ✓ 18 Primary schools engaged MSSP Specialist Sports Provision to deliver PE lessons in their school
- ✓ £20k of external funding secured and provided to 7 Secondary Schools to enhance their sports and physical activity enrichment programmes
- ✓ New Gymnastic Scheme of Work launched July 2022 and provided to Primary schools free of charge with 130 videos
- ✓ Healthy Schools London: 50 schools registered, 18 Bronze, 9 Silver and 3 Gold awards achieved
- ✓ HSL - EYFS Physical Development Training provided free to all Merton Schools, July 22.
- ✓ GLL Swimming Lessons adopted an intensive programme model
- ✓ 19 schools participated in the Wimbledon Junior Tennis Initiative talent ID programme
- ✓ 100% of schools feedback rated the overall organisation and provision of MSSP competitions as good or outstanding
- ✓ 100% Good – Outstanding feedback rating from all courses/conferences delivered.
- ✓ New MSSP website developed and live by Sep 2022
- ✓ 100% (26/26) PE Co Survey Responses rated MSSP Support for them and their school as good or outstanding

Reporting (Merton School Sports Mark)

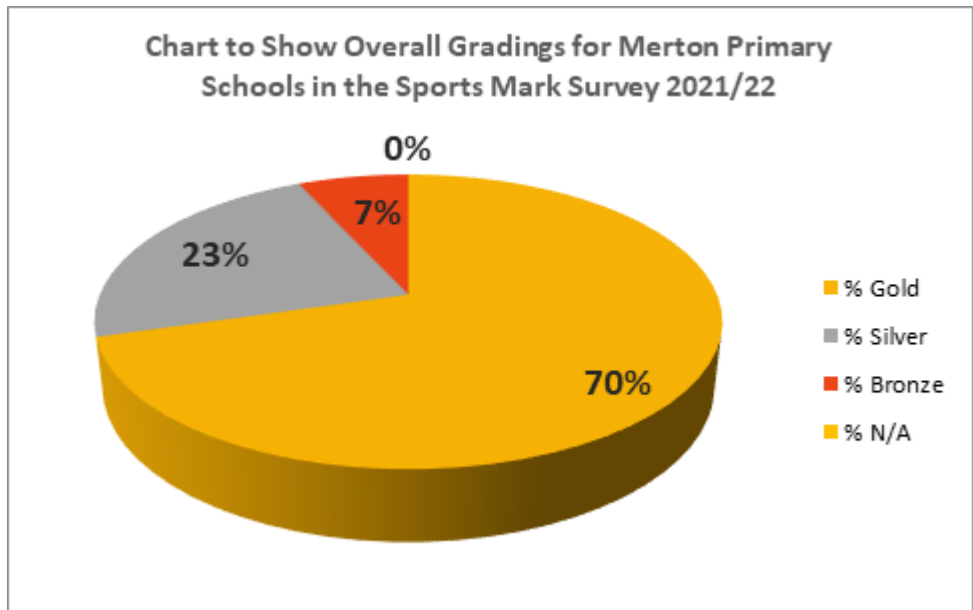
Merton School Sports Partnership (MSSP) administer the Merton School Sports Mark accreditation survey to primary and special schools annually in order to establish achievement levels in the delivery of sports, physical activity, health and wellbeing. Depending on results, schools are awarded either a bronze, silver or gold award. Points are awarded depending on the level of participation. Each section in the MSSM can be awarded 6 pts for gold, 4pts for silver or 2pts for bronze. The overall award levels are shown in the table below.

Scoring for Overall Grade	
62+ =	Gold
38+ =	Silver
22+ =	Bronze

The questions seek to establish:

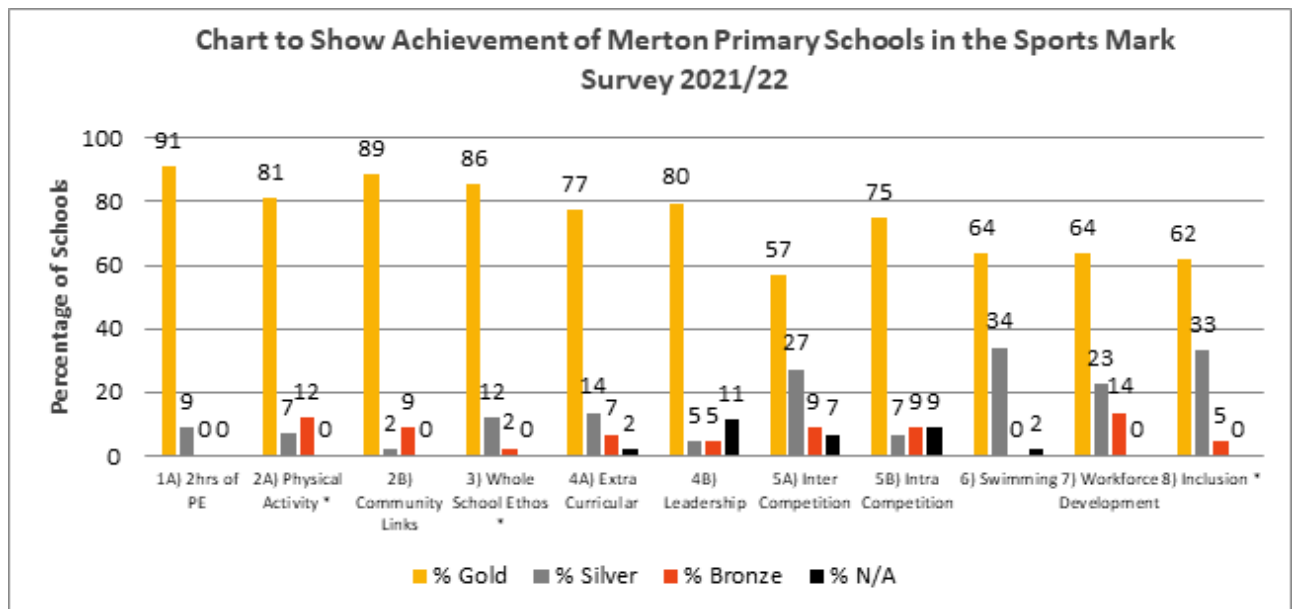
- The frequency and time spent on physical education, an effective, planned curriculum map and a system in place for the monitoring and assessment of pupils' progress.
- If the school has a comprehensive physical activity plan in place for all pupils to access more than 30 minutes of additional physical activity during the school day (as per CMO guidelines, see appendix)
- The club and community links to the school and provision for supporting children to achieve their sporting potential.
- How the school raises the profile of and celebrates sport, PE, physical activity, health and wellbeing across the ethos of the whole school, highlighting the importance of respecting others, positive communication and fair play.
- The extra-curricular sports programme provides opportunities for all pupils to enjoy a range of sports, physical activity and leadership.
- Primary Sports Leadership programme – the number of Year 5 children attending and completing the course and the number of leaders volunteering.
- The number of inter-school competitions and festival entered.
- The number of intra-school competitions and festivals provided.
- Details around the Swimming programme and its effectiveness in supporting pupils to progress and improve.
- If staff who teach PE have appropriate training and support to improve the quality of their lessons.
- If there is a comprehensive inclusive PE and physical activity programme in place for children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND).

42 out of 44 Primary and 2 out of 2 Special schools completed the award on July 2022 (21/22 Award) and the results are as follows (numbers on the chart denote number of awards):



For 2021/22, from all those schools who applied, 3 achieved bronze, 10 achieved silver and 31 achieved gold awards. There were 2 schools who did not complete the Sports Mark, who for the purposes of reporting, we have removed from the data analysis.

The table below shows the breakdown of achievement in each section of the sports mark in 2021/22.



Breakdown of MSSM results and other relevant reporting

PE Curriculum

- 100% of Primary school pupils received the recommended 2 hours of PE.
- There were 4 schools who did not meet the criteria for gold award by delivering PE lessons for KS1 pupils on separate days (silver award). The pupils still received 2 hours of PE but this was done in successive lessons. Primary explanation for this was timetabling difficulties.
- All schools reported having an effective curriculum map and assessment procedures in place.
- 18 schools engaged MSSP Specialist Sports Provision to deliver PE lessons in their school.

Physical Activity

- 88% (37/42) schools achieved a Silver award or above for their delivery of Physical Activity. Special Schools have different questions relating to their physical activity provision so can't be used for comparison.
- This means they deliver a physical activity programme to include all children in short bursts of activity throughout the week to support their 30 minute activity a day at school recommendation. Example activities would include daily mile, wake up shake up, or active classrooms.
- 29 schools undertaking a daily/active mile programme as part of their schools physical activity programme (in addition to PE curriculum).
- Playground Leaders training provided to school staff to support physical activity delivery during play/lunch breaks.

Community Links

- 91% (40/44) schools achieved a Silver award or above for their community links and support of pupils to develop their sporting potential.
- Schools had a minimum of 6 community sport partners who provided exit routes for pupils.
- MSSP worked in partnership with a number of local community sport partners to improve the delivery and pathways for pupils in sport. These include Tooting & Mitcham FC, Wimbledon Hockey Club, AELTC, Wimbledon Park Golf Club, Old Ruts Rugby and Cricket Clubs, Mitcham Cricket Club, Merton Hockey Club, Lions Basketball Club, Motspur Park FC and Mitcham Park FC

Whole School Ethos

- 98% (41/42) schools achieved a Silver award or above for their efforts to raise the profile of and celebrate sport, PE, physical activity, play and wellbeing across the ethos of the whole school.
- Special Schools have different questions relating to their physical activity provision so can't be used for comparison.
- Lonesome and Pelham Primary School shared the Annual Refspect award for displaying Positive Sporting Behaviour and Values of The School Games.
- 5 schools achieved Gold National School Games Mark, 5 schools achieved Bronze National School Games Mark operated by Your School Games.
- Healthy Schools London: 50 schools registered, 18 Bronze, 9 Silver and 3 Gold awards achieved.

Extra-Curricular Activity

- 91% (40/44) schools achieved a Silver award or above for their provision of extra-curricular opportunities. This is worked on a ratio of opportunities in relation to the number of pupils on the school roll. (e.g. To achieve Gold for an average 2 form entry the school will provide 7 extra-curricular sports/physical activity opportunities every week. This would mean approx. 50% of pupil roll accessing a sports/physical activity club every week)

Leadership Programme

- 85% (37/44) schools achieved a Silver award or above for their delivery of a leadership programme for their Year 5 pupils.
- 1,982 Year 5 pupils had sports leadership training and undertook a minimum of 6 voluntary hours delivering sports, physical activity or play opportunities in their school or community.
- 341 Secondary School pupils supported events through the Secondary Sports Leadership programme. 80% of these pupils rated the Leadership Programme as good or better.

Inter Competition

- 85% (37/44) schools achieved a Silver award or above for their participation in Inter School events and competitions.
- 100% of schools feedback rated the overall organisation and provision of MSSP competitions as good or outstanding
- Schools have highlighted staffing issues was the biggest reason they could not attend as many events as they would have liked to.
- It is also notable that the competition offer has become more varied to include additional festival type events that appeal to more pupils who may not normally get an opportunity to represent their school. I.e. rugby megafest, dance, inclusive tennis
- 48 students represented Merton in Surrey Schools Cross Country Championships
- 38 students represented Merton in the Surrey Schools Athletics T&F Championships

London Youth Games Primary School Games Programme

- LYG Yr 5/6 Netball – Poplar – 22nd
- LYG Yr 3/4 Girls Football – Bishop Gilpin – 17th
- LYG Yr 5/6 Girls Football – Bishop Gilpin - 3rd
- LYG Yr 3/4 Primary Golf – Poplar – 1st
- LYG Yr 5/6 Basketball – Malmesbury – 5th

London Youth Games Secondary School Games Programme

- LYG U14 Girls Basketball – RLHS – 17th
- LYG U16 Girls Basketball – Ursuline – 16th
- LYG Yr7 Netball – Ursuline – 5th

London Youth Games Open Games Programme (this programme is not officially administered by MSSP but we organised school teams to represent Merton on behalf of the Local Authority)

- LYG Yr9 Netball (Open Games) - RLHS – 22nd
- LYG U14 Girls Football (Open Games) - RPHS – 5th
- LYG U18 Girls Volleyball (Open Games) - RLHS - 5th

Intra Competition

- 82% (36/44) achieved a Silver award or above for their delivery of an intra school events programme.
- This means that schools delivered a minimum of 4 intra school competitions for each year group from Years 3-6.
- This section is aligned to the national school games programme target groups of Years 3-6.
- The school games offer for KS1 will be recorded in the leadership section where providing multi skills festivals is still a key component of the programme

Swimming

- 98% (43/44) schools achieved a Silver award or above for their programme and promotion of swimming in their school.
- Swimming programmes were severely impacted by the closure of pools. Many schools are trying to catch up with lessons and Year 6 has been a priority for the pools. Schools have reported difficulties in booking slots since the pools reopened. MSSP are working with GLL to try and find solutions to this issue.
- The majority of schools who went from gold to silver awards were because of the criteria of attending a swimming event. Most schools assumed this was entering the gala but there were other opportunities that could allow schools to meet the gold level criteria i.e. top up swimming festival day that may not have considered.
- The number of pupils who can swim 25m in year 6 is 63% from the data provided.
- The schools swimming programme provided by GLL has adopted an Intensive programme model.
- Merton Swimming Development Group created to support swimming provision for schools.

Workforce Development

- 87% (38/44) schools achieved a Silver award or above for their commitment and provision of Continuous Professional Development in their school. This takes into account attendance at MSSP PE Coordinator conferences, audit of school staff needs and subsequent actions, and observations of PE delivery undertaken with members of MSSP and SLT.
- MSSP delivered 4 x ECT PE Dev Workshops (Invasion Games, Gymnastics, Dance, Inclusion/OAA PE focuses), Teaching Assistant PE Support Workshop, Gymnastics CPD, Healthy Schools London Bronze and Silver Workshops and Early Years PE/Physical Literacy Workshop.
- Autumn and Summer conferences with additional learning opportunities in Tennis, Gymnastics, Growth Mindset and Ofsted PE Deep Dive.
- 8 School Inset (3 x Gymnastics, 3 x Dance) and PE Support (EYFS & KS1/2) training provided.
- 100% Good – Outstanding feedback rating from all courses/conferences delivered.

Inclusion

- 95% (40/42) achieved Silver award or above for their comprehensive inclusive PE and physical activity programme in place for children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND).
- Additional criteria that was unfamiliar with some PE Coordinators has affected some results i.e. Inclusive Health Check undertaken through the School Games programme and the challenges with gathering information re. pupils out of school participation in sports and physical activity provision.

Inclusive Event Opportunities targeting SEND pupils:

- Cross Country Challenge Run
- Multi-Skills Festival
- Boccia Competition
- Dance Festival
- Tennis Festival
- Orienteering Festival
- Football Festival
- Scatter-ball Festival
- Cluster Multi Skills Festivals

Summary

Due to the school sports mark not being completed during 2019-20 and 2020-21, it has been difficult to accurately reflect how the results have compared to previous years. Schools have had to reset their provision following Covid and the pressures of the Recovery and/or Catch Up Curriculum has meant that generally results in MSSM have fallen compared to the last recorded results in 2018/19. Furthermore there have been additional challenges with staffing, either through budget cuts or sickness, which has had a detrimental effect on their ability to fully implement their PE, Sports and Physical Activity (PESPA) provision to where they had reached in pre-Covid levels. There has also been a number of changes to the MSSM, in particular to align with regional and national programmes which has also meant there was no comparative data to analyse. It should however, allow schools to provide a more comprehensive plan of their PE, Sports and Physical Activity to meet their obligations for reporting on their PESPA, review their provision to identify any gaps and evaluate their programmes to achieve further accreditation.

Despite all these challenges, schools have put an enormous amount of effort and commitment to providing their pupils with the best possible provision and experiences that they could manage. It is a credit to the incredibly hard working network of PE Coordinators, SLT and all other staff in schools that they have managed to achieve so much. MSSP are extremely grateful for the prominence they have placed in engaging with the partnership and the work we do to ensure the health and wellbeing of Merton pupils is an ongoing priority.

MSSP PE, Sports & Physical Activity *Provisional* Targets 2022-23

Once agreed by our Steering Committee, MSSP targets for 2022-23 will be fully documented in our Performance Targets document available to affiliated schools upon request.

Our focus for the year will entail:

Organisational Targets

- ✓ Review our approach to diversity across school sport and within our organisation. We plan to reach out and consult with local and national networks, forums and organisations with specialisms and proven good practise in this area, to review and improve our own organisation's practises, literature and awareness. We intend that our stakeholders, both children and adults and all their protected characteristics, feel better represented, consulted, safe, empowered and supported by our Partnership.
- ✓ Effectively implement the new competition/events structure and calendar.
- ✓ Explore methods to engage/consult with children to capture their voices, experience and enjoyment at our events and in PE, PA and Sport activities.
- ✓ All affiliated schools complete MSSM award by July 2022

PE Provision

- ✓ 100% of Primary schools delivering 2 hours of PE every week for every pupil
- ✓ Engage with 20 Schools to provide PPA and PE Mentoring
- ✓ Develop more young coaches to enhance the workforce

Physical Activity Provision

- ✓ At least 90% of Primary schools delivering Chief Medical Officer guidelines of 30 minutes of physical activity for every pupil every day to support the physical and mental health of students

Extra-Curricular provision

- ✓ 95% of Primary Schools achieving Merton Sports Mark Gold Standard (e.g. For an average 2 form entry the school will provide 7 extra-curricular sports/physical activity opportunities every week.

Leadership

- ✓ 400 Secondary pupils supporting MSSP Competitions and Events
- ✓ 2000 Year 5 pupils undertaking MSSP sports leadership training to support Sports and Activity in Primary Schools.

Competition and Events

- ✓ More advanced/forward planning with our 2023-24 calendar and advanced communication with PE Co's
- ✓ 70 Primary Inter School Events/ Competitions
- ✓ 10,500 Participants
- ✓ More, different children can represent their school and enjoy participating – FUN and RESPECT

Swimming

- ✓ Plan this year for better access to pool slots from Sep 2023
- ✓ 63% of pupils achieving 25m swimming distance

Healthy Schools London Award Programme

- ✓ Engage with schools to communicate the award and benefit of healthy schools programme
 - 56 schools registered, 26 Bronze awards, 15 Silver awards, 8 Gold awards