

Merton School Sport Partnership

Annual Report Summary

August 2023

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.

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 or underrepresented groups.

Achievements in 2022-23

Following our annual review in August 2022, we planned to further develop across several areas for the new academic year, 2022-23.

One of our biggest all round achievements this year were the partnerships we developed with a range of local and national organisations in order to do more together, to improve opportunities for the young people of Merton to be active and for them to enjoy taking part in PE, sport and physical activity. With Merton's new ambition to become a 'Borough of Sport' there is an exciting vibe in our borough. Local clubs, community providers, schools and other partners are really upbeat about working together and overcoming barriers, to put sport and physical activity at the top of everyone's agenda; striving to ensure more children and young people can be active, happy, healthy and resilient.

Our organisational targets included a review of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion across our Partnership. We have consulted with Merton Music Foundation and LB Merton's School Improvement Team to begin this journey and have commissioned Equaliteach to support and guide us through this process. In the summer term, our core team, Steering Committee, Primary PE Coordinators, sports coaches and other stakeholders were surveyed in preparation for training which will take place in early 2023-24.

The revised competition calendar and school games offer was agreed and delivered this year. This enabled more children to take part and enjoy competitive and fun activities across a range of levels and abilities. We introduced an additional 14 events into the calendar for 2022-23 which helped schools to engage pupils who may have not previously had an opportunity to access appropriate provision. The partnership employed two additional members of staff to support events being delivered on Mondays and Fridays.

All but one of our 45 affiliated schools were able to complete the Merton School Sports Mark Award this year. Overall there has been an improvement in gradings in the majority of sections on the previous year which had suffered from the impact of Covid-19.

More of our Merton schools chose MSSP for their external coaching and PE specialist provision this year, which we believe will improve the quality of PE and extra-curricular activities for their pupils and has also enhanced our income to reinvest back into our schools' offer. As part of our ongoing mission to develop more coaches to enhance the local workforce and support our schools, we were delighted to be successful in our Merton Civic Pride bid. MSSP were awarded £147,250 in April 2023 and quickly put plans in place to roll out our new 'Merton PE Coach Academy' and accredited centre for the SLQ Supporting the Delivery of Primary PE, School Sport and Physical Activity Award, Level 3. We have worked closely with Tooting and Mitcham FC and their BTEC programme along with 24 Merton Primary and Special schools that will provide valuable work placements, ready to start our new initiative in September 2023.

Our schools have been encouraged to ensure more students are active during the day and after school. Through our MSSM award, we have recorded that 38/45 (84%) schools provide a daily mile or equivalent movement programme throughout the week for their children to be more physically active during the school day. MSSP were pleased to be able to work with London Sport and LBM to encourage and support our schools to apply for the Opening School Facilities fund. An impressive 23 schools in Merton managed to secure around £290k of funding to enhance their sports and physical activity enrichment programmes. This will be hugely beneficial to them in their plans to provide more physical activity for the students and local communities.

With a focus on the development of a local coach workforce, our sports leadership programmes, which begin in year 5 for our Merton students, provide the first step on that journey. This year we enabled 457 primary and secondary leaders to support at our events and develop their confidence, skills and experience in a supportive setting.

In addition to our original Partnership targets, a new swimming timetabling process was developed and implemented by MSSP this year. With all Primary schools reporting that they much preferred the new approach to timetabling with MSSP's support, and that they were pleased to have been allocated either their first or second choice of pool slots for next year.

MSSP continued to engage with schools to communicate the benefit of the Healthy Schools London Award programme and have worked with PH Merton to agree the best way to roll out the GLA's new plans for the HSL award for 2024. As part of our ongoing support in this field, MSSP have developed a new working relationship with Stormbreak, a charity that focuses on movement to support mental health.

Key Highlights



- ✓ 76 Primary Sport Events delivered (▲ 15 from 21/22).
- ✓ 919 teams represented their school (▲ 210 from 21/22).
- ✓ 9407 Primary School pupils represented their school (▲ 1025 from 21/22).
- ✓ A Merton primary school won the London Youth Games Tri-Golf competition for the sixth consecutive year (St Teresa's twice and Poplar for a fourth time). Poplar also won the Yr 3/4 New age Kurling event at London Youth Games.
- ✓ 457 Secondary School pupils supported events through the Sports Leadership programme (▲ 116 from 21/22).
- ✓ 2041 Yr 5 young leaders trained in Primary Schools.

- ✓ 6 Schools were provided with a Deep Dive into their PE, Sport and Physical Activity provision. This is primarily to prepare schools for an Ofsted Inspection.
- ✓ 49 Early Career Teachers trained in the delivery of PE.
- ✓ 25 Primary schools engaged MSSP Specialist Sports Provision to deliver PE lessons in their school (▲ 7 from 21/22)
- ✓ £290k of external funding (opening school facilities) secured and provided to 23 Merton Schools to enhance their sports and physical activity enrichment programmes.
- ✓ £147,250 Civic Pride funding awarded for Merton PE Coach Academy.
- ✓ Healthy Schools London current totals: 50 schools registered, 22 Bronze, 12 Silver and 3 Gold awards achieved.
- ✓ New swimming booking process designed and implemented to ensure priority for Merton Schools needs in 23/24.
- ✓ 8 schools participated in the Wimbledon Junior Tennis Initiative 6 week 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.
- ✓ 100% of 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.

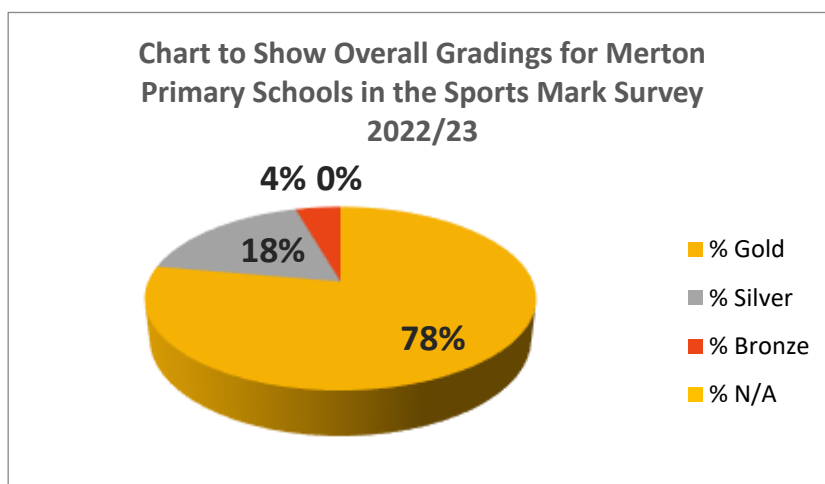
Scoring for Overall Grade	
62+ =	Gold
38+ =	Silver
22+ =	Bronze

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 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.

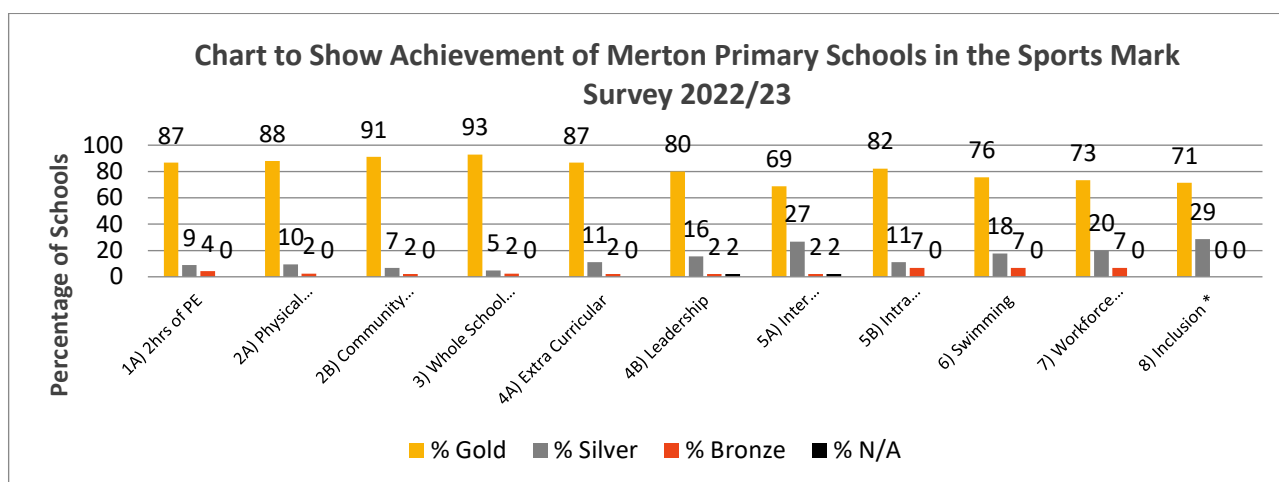
- Primary Sports Leadership programme – the number of Year 5 children attending and completing the course and the number of leaders volunteering.
- The number of inter-school competitions and festival entered.
- The number of intra-school competitions and festivals provided.
- Details around the Swimming 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).

45 out of 46 Primary/Special schools completed the award in July 2023 (22/23 Award) and the results are as follows (numbers on the chart denote number of awards):



For 2022-23, from all the schools who applied, 2 achieved bronze (3 in 2021-22), 8 achieved silver (10 in 21/22) and 35 achieved gold awards (31 in 21/22). There was 1 school who did not complete the Sports Mark, for the purposes of reporting in the individual sections, we have removed this from the data. Of the 35 schools who achieved the gold award, 23 schools have been accredited with the platinum award (5 years of continuous gold award status).

The table below shows the breakdown of achievement in each section of the sports mark in 2022-23.



Breakdown of MSSM results and other relevant reporting

PE Curriculum

- 96% of Primary school pupils received the recommended 2 hours of PE (100% in 2021-22).
- 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.
- There were 2 schools who did not deliver the recommended 2 hours of PE. Other school priorities were cited as the main reason for this decision.
- All schools reported having an effective curriculum map and assessment procedures in place.
- 25 schools engaged MSSP Specialist Sports Provision to deliver PE lessons in their school.
- 6 Schools received a Mock Ofsted Deep Dive into their PE, Sport and Physical Activity provision.

Physical Activity

- 98% (41/42) schools achieved a Silver award or above for their delivery of Physical Activity (88% or 37/42 schools in 21/22). 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.
- 38 schools undertaking a daily/active mile programme as part of their schools physical activity programme (in addition to PE curriculum). This is an increase of 9 schools from 2021-22.
- Beat The Street Initiative was cited as an extremely successful method of engaging pupils and families in physical activity outside of the school day.
- Playground Leaders training provided to school staff to support physical activity delivery during play/lunch breaks.

Community Links

- 98% (44/45) schools achieved a Silver award or above for their community links and support of pupils to develop their sporting potential (91% or 40/44 schools in 21/22).

- 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, Mitcham Park FC and Sean McInnes Coaching.

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 (98% or 41/42 schools in 21/22).
- Special Schools have different questions relating to their Whole School Ethos so can't be used for comparison.
- Poplar Primary School won the Annual Refspect award for displaying positive sporting behaviour and values of the School Games. There was also a winner from each cluster area that included; Liberty (Mitcham Town), Poplar (Morden), Wimbledon Park (Central Wimbledon), Joseph Hood (West Wimbledon) and Links (East Mitcham).
- 8 schools achieved Gold National School Games Mark operated by Your School Games.
- Healthy Schools London current totals: 50 schools registered, 22 Bronze, 12 Silver and 3 Gold awards achieved. An additional 6 schools have achieved the bronze award, 3 additional schools achieved the silver award and 1 school who already had the silver award, resubmitted for a new health project they were undertaking. Unfortunately the schools who achieved the silver award did not have time to evaluate their project and complete the application for the HSL gold award before the end of the academic year. It is expected all 4 schools will achieve the gold award early in the next academic year.

Extra-Curricular Activity

- 98% (44/45) schools achieved a Silver award or above for their provision of extra-curricular opportunities (91% or 40/44 schools in 21/22).
- 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

- 96% (43/46) schools achieved a Silver award or above for their delivery of a leadership programme for their Year 5 pupils (85% or 37/44 schools in 21/22).
- 2,041 Year 5 pupils received sports leadership training at school and undertook a minimum of 6 voluntary hours delivering sports, physical activity or play opportunities in their school or community. This is an increase of 59 pupils from 21/22.
- 457 Secondary School pupils supported events through the Secondary Sports Leadership programme. This is an increase of 116 pupils from 21/22.
- 100% of pupils who volunteered at our events rated their overall experience as good (20%) or excellent (80%).

Inter Competition

- 96% (43/45) schools achieved a Silver award or above for their participation in Inter School events and competitions (84% or 37/44 schools in 21/22).
- 100% of schools feedback rated the overall organisation and provision of MSSP competitions as good (25%) or very good (75%)
- Schools have highlighted staffing issues were 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.
- 35 Secondary pupils represented Merton in the Surrey Schools Cross Country Championships.
- 44 Secondary pupils represented Merton in the Surrey Schools Athletics T&F Championships.

London Youth Games School Games Programme - Representing Merton

- Sportshall Athletics Year 5/6 – Bishop Gilpin
- Sportshall Athletics Year 3/4 – St John Fisher
- Bee Netball Year 5/6 – Bishop Gilpin (2nd)
- Girls Football Year 3/4 – Hollymount (9th)
- Girls Football Year 5/6 – Garfield (9th)
- New Age Kurling Year 3/4 – Poplar (1st)
- Rugby League Tag Year 5/6 – Wimbledon Chase
- Golf Year 3/4 – Poplar (1st)
- Girls Dynamos Cricket 5/6 – Hollymount (4th)
- Mini Tennis Red 3/4 – Bishop Gilpin (2nd)
- 3 v 3 Basketball 5/6 – Bishop Gilpin (9th)
- Year 7 Netball – Ricards
- Year 7 Girls Sportshall – Ursuline
- Year 7 Boys Sportshall - Harris Merton
- Year 8 Girls Sportshall – Ricards
- Year 8 Boys Sportshall – Rutlish
- Under 14 Boys Basketball – Harris Merton
- Under 16 Boys Basketball – Harris Merton
- Under 14 Girls Basketball – Ricards
- Under 16 Girls Basketball - Ricards

Surrey County Pathway Events - Representing Merton

- Surrey FA Best Team – Wimbledon Chase
- Surrey FA Girls – Hollymount
- Surrey Cricket Girls – Bishop Gilpin
- Surrey Cricket Boys – Wimbledon Chase

Intra Competition

- 93% (42/45) achieved a Silver award or above for their delivery of an intra school events programme. (82% or 36/44 schools in 21/22).
- This means that schools delivered a minimum of 4 intra school competitions for each year group from Years 1-6.

Swimming

- 93% (42/45) schools achieved a Silver award or above for their programme and promotion of swimming in their school.
- The number of pupils who can swim 25m is 56% from the data provided, this is from 33/42 schools who have provided data. *(Data is provided by swimming providers directly to schools. Some schools are still awaiting or have not compiled their data for this academic year. The results will be updated once all data has been submitted.)*
- The school swimming programme provided by GLL has adopted an Intensive programme model.
- Merton Swimming Development Group continues to meet to support swimming provision for schools.
- A new timetabling process ready for Sept 2023 will ensure all schools can access swimming lessons in local pools next academic year.

Workforce Development

- 93% (42/45) schools achieved a Silver award or above for their commitment and provision of continuous professional development in their school (87% or 38/44 schools in 21/22).
- 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 New PE Coordinator Induction workshop, 5 x ECT PE Dev Workshops (Invasion Games, Gymnastics, Dance, Summer Sports and Inclusion/OAA PE focuses), Teaching Assistant PE Support Workshop, 2 day Gymnastics Teachers Course, Healthy Schools London Bronze and Silver Workshops, School Sports Mark workshops, School Games Mark Workshop and 2 x Early Years PE/Physical Literacy Workshop.
- Autumn and Summer conferences with additional learning opportunities in Tennis, Spike-it, Mental Health and Physical Activity, Ofsted Deep Dives, Child Healthy Weight.
- 6 School Inset - 1 x Dance, 1 x TA PE Support, 3 x EYFS & 1x SEND training provided.
- 100% Good – Outstanding feedback rating from all courses/conferences delivered.

Inclusion

- 100% (42/42) achieved Silver award or above for their comprehensive inclusive PE and physical activity programme in place for children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (95% or 40/42 schools in 21/22).
- Additional criteria that was unfamiliar with some PE Coordinators has affected some results from Gold to Silver 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
- New Age Kurling Competition
- Sitting Volleyball Competition
- Boccia Competition
- Dance Festival

- Tennis Festival
- Orienteering Festival
- Football Festival
- Scatter-ball Festival
- 5 x Cluster Multi Skills Festivals

Summary

The sports mark enables schools to provide a more comprehensive plan of their PE, Sports and Physical Activity to meet their obligations for reporting on their PPESP, review their provision to identify any gaps and evaluate their programmes to achieve further accreditation.

Comparing results from last year's sports mark and other MSSP operational targets i.e. number of events and number of participants at events, it has been a hugely successful year for the schools affiliated to MSSP. We sought to diversify our offer to schools to provide more breadth and depth to what they could access in terms of events, CPD support, whole school improvement and physical activity. Schools have responded superbly to the support available and have been determined to drive the PE, Sport and Physical Activity opportunities in their school. This has been achieved despite continuing challenging times for schools around staffing, either through budget cuts, sickness, strike action, a reducing number of teachers and support staff in the profession and an increasing demand to prioritise other targets.

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 within 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 students is an ongoing priority.

MSSP PE, Sports & Physical Activity Focus 2023-24

MSSP focus and targets for 2023-24 are agreed by our Executive Steering Committee over the summer holidays and will be fully documented in our Annual Performance Targets document available to affiliated schools upon request in October 2023.

Our focus for the year will entail:

Organisational Targets

- ✓ Continue on our journey to review and improve our approach to diversity across school sport and within our organisation. With support from Equaliteach we will gather data to help us identify areas to improve within our organisation's practises, policies, access, literature and awareness. Providing high quality and engaging training and development for all involved. 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 to have equity in their access to our programmes.
- ✓ Further develop our role within the 'Borough of Sport' ambition and nurture relations with local and national partners and local club links. Support the Sport England Active Lives school survey process, to map data within our borough and help us to identify areas to improve.

- ✓ Explore methods to engage/consult with children to capture their voices, preferences and experience at our events and within PE, PA and Sport activities.
- ✓ Improve opportunities for students and school communities to adopt active and healthy lifestyles, utilising the Healthy Schools London Award scheme and Stormbreak's online Movement and Mental Health programmes to support schools within this field.
- ✓ Scrutinise the opportunities available as well as the uptake, for girls to have equal and suitable access to PE, sport and physical activities across our schools' programmes and event calendars.
- ✓ Promote the 'Play Their Way' initiative through our Refspect programme and staff training to help adults understand what makes children enjoy taking part and how to keep them involved in sport and being active for the long term.

PE Provision

- ✓ 100% of Primary schools delivering 2 hours of PE every week for every pupil.
- ✓ Develop more young coaches to enhance the workforce through our new Merton PE Coach Academy.
- ✓ Support schools to develop their PE Skills Map in line with their curriculum plans and Ofsted expectations.

Physical Activity

- ✓ 95% of Primary Schools achieving Merton Sports Mark Silver Standard or higher for Question 2.

Sports Leaders

- ✓ Enhance and embed our Sports Leader programme and offer to students at Primary and Secondary age.
- ✓ Work with YST and The Wimbledon Foundation to deliver the Set for Success programme in selected Merton Secondary Schools.

Competition and Events

- ✓ Clearer information and understanding of our events to make the whole process as smooth as possible for our schools to get involved.

Swimming

- ✓ Ensure attainment data is provided by GLL to all school users and collated across the whole borough, alongside feedback/evaluations from schools, to continue to demonstrate outcomes and improve the experience for children and schools.