
SCHOOL ESTATE AUDIT

Sports facilities in schools

Putting sport first

sportscotland
the national agency for sport

Introduction

As the national agency for sport, **sportscotland** identified 'improving access to the school estate' as one of the key success measures in their 2011-15 corporate plan. **sportscotland** are working towards 'developing and supporting a world class sporting system at all levels' in Scotland and this includes the opportunities for young people and communities to take part in sport and using the school estate to help facilitate this. To contribute to these aims, this school estate research has collected data to answer the following questions:

- What sports facilities exist within the school estate?
- What sports facilities are available for use within the school estate?
- What is the current use of these facilities for sport?

The data was collected in a flexible way to accommodate local authority systems and processes. Some areas were able to provide the information from central records and others preferred schools to be contacted directly. The majority of 'usage' data has been collected by working closely with community letting officers or others in similar roles. The top level findings are outlined below with detailed tables in Appendix 1.

Top level findings

In terms of **context**, Scotland has:

- 2,102 Primary schools, of which 6% (129) are PFI/PPP/SFT
- 371 Secondary schools, of which 40% (148) are PFI/PPP/SFT

There are a wide range of **sports facilities** in this overall school estate including:

- Approx. 3,500 hall court spaces (bespoke games halls to general multi-purpose indoor areas)
- Approx. 2,000 outdoor pitches
- 621 multi-use outdoor areas
- 183 fitness suites
- 116 dance studios
- 106 swimming pools
- 156 outdoor running tracks
- 188 outdoor basketball courts
- 104 outdoor tennis courts

In terms of **availability to the community**, the majority of this estate is available for public use:

- 79% of facilities in primary schools are available for community use, based on responses from 1,751 primary schools
- 98% of facilities in secondary schools are available for community use, based on responses from 329 secondary schools

The average availability for schools is:

- 4-4.5 hrs on a weekday during term time
- 7-8 hrs on a weekend day during term time
- 8.5-12.4 hrs on days during school holidays

For secondary schools the school holiday average is higher at 12.4 hours per day compared to 8.5 hours per day for primary schools.

In terms of **uptake and use of facilities**, around a third of the available time is utilised across the whole school estate (primary and secondary schools):

- 35% of available indoor space is used during term time (17% during school holidays)
- 19% of available outdoor space is used during term time (11% during school holidays)

However it is important to recognise that use of secondary schools (where facilities are in general better suited to a wider range of sports) is significantly higher than primary schools:

- 61% of available indoor space in secondary schools is used during term time (43% during school holidays)
- 40% of available outdoor space in secondary schools is used during term time (28% during school holidays)

Two thirds (66%) of the use is by regular lets and a third (32%) is casual use. For secondary schools 73% of the use is regular lets and 26% is casual use.

The top 10 **types of activity** taking place in the community use of schools are:

- Football
- Badminton
- Swimming
- Dance classes
- Tennis
- Karate
- Rugby
- Yoga
- Basketball
- Keep Fit

Understanding **how community use is managed and accessed** is also important. For primary schools that data shows that:

- 84% managed by local authority department
- 5% devolved to the school
- 5% managed by a trust or other independent body.
- 4% managed by a PFI/PPP contractor

For secondary schools:

- 63% managed by local authority department
- 14% devolved to the school
- 10% managed by a trust or other independent body.
- 10% managed by a PFI/PPP contractor

Booking facilities appear to be largely by paper forms or by telephone with minimal online systems:

For primary schools:

- 40% paper based
- 33% telephone
- 9% online
- 3% email

For secondary schools:

- 36% paper based
- 36% telephone
- 8% online
- 5% email

Conclusions and next steps

In relation to the simple questions that **sportscotland** sought to answer, it has been established that:

- There are a wide range of facilities for sport within the school estate and a wide range of sports take place in these facilities.
- The vast majority of the school estate is available for public use both in term-time and during school holidays.
- A majority of indoor space in secondary schools is used by the community but there is scope to increase use across the entire estate.

sportscotland is now working through our well established partnerships with local authorities to consider the detailed circumstances in each local authority. Community Sports Hubs also provide us with some great examples of how the school estate can be used to provide greater capacity that allows local clubs to increase their membership and activity levels relatively quickly and we will seek to share and grow these examples.

Appendix 1

The methodology for conducting this audit has been flexible to accommodate local authority requirements and to take into account their individual systems and processes. For example some areas expressed a preference for all schools to be contacted directly, but in other areas this was deemed to be a duplication of effort or ineffective as their schools would not have easy access to much of the data required.

The majority of 'usage' data has been collected by working closely with community letting officers or colleagues in similar roles within local authorities. Using this approach we have been able to access data and provide an insight into booking patterns. In practice, this resulted in existing audit and management data being supplemented by telephone interviews and online research.

1 Schools in Scotland

The following table presents an overview of schools across the country. Details of the sports facilities within these schools are provided in section 2.

	Primary	Secondary	ASN*	TOTAL
Number of schools	2,102	371	152	2,625
% of total	80.1%	14.1%	5.8%	100.0%

*Additional Support Needs schools

	Primary	% of valid total	Secondary	% of valid total	ASN*	% of valid total
Local Authority	1,973	93.9%	223	60.1%	141	92.8%
PPP	129	6.1%	148	39.9%	11	7.2%
TOTAL	2,102	100.0%	371	100.0%	152	100.0%

*Additional Support Needs schools

2 Sports Facilities

The following tables present information relating to facility numbers, condition and floodlighting. It should be noted that in the case of Games Halls, Gymnasias, Multi-Purpose and Dining Halls, the number of facilities relates to the total number of recorded court spaces.

Note: The 'condition' of facilities has not been verified - the rating has been provided by feedback from local authorities. This may have been part of an independent assessment provided through a condition survey or may be a subjective judgment made by local authority staff.

2.1 Indoor sports facilities – primary schools

Primary		Indoor				
		Games Hall	Gymnasium	Multi purpose	Dining Hall	Changing rooms
Total Number		642	350	836	350	701
Condition (% based on valid responses)*	Good (Green)	66.3%	49.8%	47.6%	72.3%	68.8%
	Average (Amber)	29.9%	41.1%	49.5%	24.1%	25.9%
	Poor (Red)	3.8%	9.1%	2.9%	3.6%	5.3%
	TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Note: for games halls, gymnasia, multi-purpose and dining halls, the number of facilities relates to the total number of recorded court spaces (including those smaller than one standard badminton court size)

2.2 Indoor sports facilities – secondary schools

Secondary		Indoor					
		Games Hall	Gymnasium	Dance Studio	Fitness Suite	Changing rooms	Swimming Pool
Total Number		1,149	464	116	183	1,079	106
Condition (% based on valid responses)*	Good (Green)	74.1%	65.3%	88.6%	75.6%	67.1%	74.5%
	Average (Amber)	19.7%	25.0%	8.0%	16.8%	22.9%	21.8%
	Poor (Red)	6.2%	9.7%	3.4%	7.6%	10.0%	3.6%
	TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Note: for games halls and gymnasia, the number of facilities relates to the total number of recorded court spaces (including those smaller than one standard badminton court size)

2.3 Outdoor sports facilities – primary schools

Primary		Outdoor		
		Pitches	Multi use game areas	Basketball courts
Total Number		984	521	128
Condition (% based on valid responses)*	Good (Green)	52.6%	72.4%	76.4%
	Average (Amber)	32.2%	20.3%	16.7%
	Poor (Red)	15.2%	7.3%	6.9%
	TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Floodlight	Yes	92	60	8
	No	730	408	111
	Unknown	162	53	9

2.4 Outdoor sports facilities – secondary schools

Secondary		Outdoor				
		Pitches	Multi use game areas	Basketball courts	Running Track	Tennis court
Total Number		931	100	60	156	104
Condition (% based on valid responses)*	Good (Green)	65.6%	75.7%	83.6%	56.6%	n/a
	Average (Amber)	22.4%	10.8%	8.2%	30.3%	n/a
	Poor (Red)	12.0%	13.5%	8.2%	13.2%	n/a
	TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	n/a
Floodlight	Yes	18	34	4	15	19
	No	33	59	52	121	69
	Unknown	18	7	4	20	16

*The 'condition' of facilities has not been verified - the rating has been provided by feedback from local authorities. This may have been part of an independent assessment provided through a condition survey or may be a subjective judgment made by local authority staff.

3 Sports facility availability and usage

In Scotland as a whole, 79% of primary schools are available for community use, with almost all (98%) secondary school facilities providing access to the community.

Community use						
	Primary	% of valid total	Secondary	% of valid total	ASN*	% of valid total
Yes	1,378	78.7%	323	98.2%	47	51.6%
No	373	21.3%	6	1.8%	44	48.4%

*Additional Support Needs schools

3.1 Community hours available

		Primary	Secondary	ASN*
Weekday Average per day	Number of responses	1,189	308	31
	Average	4:13	4:37	3:39
Weekend Average per day	Number of responses	618	264	17
	Average	7:56	8:08	7:49
School Holidays Average per day	Number of responses	347	161	9
	Average	8:29	12:31	8:20

*Additional Support Needs schools

3.2 Management arrangements

Management type	Primary		Secondary		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
School devolved management responsibility: i.e. by community use manager; head teacher, head of department, or janitor	65	4.7%	46	14.4%	112	6.4%
Management by local authority department, e.g. community education, culture and leisure	1,164	84.3%	201	63.0%	1,411	80.4%
Management by a trust or other independent body drawing membership from various stakeholders, including schools, local authority, sports clubs and others.	74	5.4%	33	10.3%	108	6.2%
Management by a third-party PFI/PPP contractor	54	3.9%	32	10.0%	88	5.0%
Unknown	24	1.7%	7	2.2%	37	2.1%
TOTAL	1,381		319		1,756	

3.3 Letting procedures

Booking methods	Primary		Secondary		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Paper based	508	40.3%	106	35.9%	624	38.8%
Email	39	3.1%	15	5.1%	55	3.4%
Online	117	9.3%	25	8.5%	148	9.2%
Telephone	421	33.4%	106	35.9%	556	34.5%
Unknown	174	13.8%	43	14.6%	227	14.1%

3.4 Use of community hours

		% of available hours utilised			
		Term time		School holiday periods	
		Outdoor	Indoor	Outdoor	Indoor
Primary schools	Number of responses	632	756	400	447
	Average	11.3%	25.7%	4.8%	8.1%
Secondary schools	Number of responses	233	256	148	156
	Average	39.7%	61.1%	27.9%	42.7%

3.5 Community use by user type

		Casual	Regular	Other
Primary schools	Number of responses	862	862	862
	Average	33.6%	63.9%	2.5%
Secondary schools	Number of responses	226	226	226
	Average	25.6%	73.4%	1.0%

3.6 Usage type

		Physical activity	Non-physical activities
Primary schools	Number of responses	988	988
	Average	47.3%	52.7%
Secondary schools	Number of responses	244	244
	Average	83.6%	16.4%

3.7 Main sports activities for community use

Sport / physical activity related activities		
Activity	Count	%
Football	219	16.6%
Badminton	123	9.3%
Dance classes	96	7.3%
Swimming	79	6.0%
Martial Arts	66	5.1%
Tennis	51	3.9%
Keep Fit	42	3.2%
Rugby	41	3.1%
Yoga	39	3.0%
Basketball	29	2.2%
Netball	24	1.8%
Athletics	18	1.4%
Gymnastics	18	1.4%
Hockey	12	0.9%
Volleyball	8	0.6%
Table Tennis	7	0.5%
Zumba	7	0.5%