

Why to use the School Games website – top 10

Are you new to the School Games website? Considering registering for an account and wondering what you'll get out of it? Here are our top ten reason why to use the School Games website.

1) Apply for the School Games Mark

The School Games Mark is a Government led award scheme launched in 2012 to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community. Schools can apply on an annual basis and are graded at either bronze, silver, gold, or platinum level with successful applicants able to share their success as evidence of their school sport provision. Digital collateral is available upon confirmation of a school's grade with gold and platinum winners also receiving commemorative plaques to celebrate that achievement.

2) Share and celebrate the success of your School Games

One of the many upgrades to the new School Games website, launched in September 2017, is the ability for teachers to create 'profile pages' to represent their school, just like social media. Your page will automatically host evidence of your most recent School Games Mark award, your blog entries, and the events you have attended. There is then the option to customise your page and make it your own by adding a school logo, a link to your school website, as well as pictures, videos and much more.

3) Get top tips on making your School Games more inclusive

There are lots of great tools for you to make use of on the School Games website and one of the most popular is the Inclusive Health Check. This interactive questionnaire provides you with top tips and actions based on your responses and, once you're finished, presents you with a complete action plan for how to engage more young people and ensure your School Games is a fully inclusive environment.

4) Engage pupils in leadership and media opportunities

We encourage all our schools to partake in the leadership and media opportunities available through the School Games – many of which can help schools meet their School Games Mark criteria. The new School Games website now offers pupil accounts for the first time; these can be manually added by a teacher and allows the pupils to add blog and media content via their own accounts. Our popular School Sport Organising Crew and Committee resources will also help you engage your young leaders.

5) Earn rewards and reinvest them in new sports equipment for your school

We currently run weekly, monthly, and termly blogging reward schemes and there is the opportunity for your school to win up to £250 in Youth Sport Direct vouchers each term; these vouchers can be reinvested in the YSD online store and will allow you to purchase some great equipment, resources, or online learning for your school. Just one blog could be enough to earn you entry into our termly giveaways; to find out more about what you could win please visit www.youthsportdirect.org.



6) Create your own calendar of intra-school events and competitions

The new School Games website allows you to add intra-school events, i.e. competitions between classes or houses, to your calendar and track levels of participation and engagement. The simple layout and easy-print format mean that you're free to use this like a diary and plan future events and competitions, including your School Games Day in the summer, and keep track of the results.

7) Find out more about events happening in your local area and request entry

There is plenty more that your calendar is capable of. As well as intra-school events, you can also use it to follow inter-school and county level events that you are participating in and to find additional events that you might wish to compete in. By using the calendar filters provided you can search for specific sports or activities which suit you. Simply click on the event to find out where and when it's happening and who is going to be running it.

8) Receive the latest news, updates and support from the Youth Sport Trust

At the top of your dashboard you will see a news section. Here, you will find the latest news and updates from the team behind the School Games and the Youth Sport Trust. This might include special offers and opportunities, alerts to new resources or updates, or simply reminders to help you through the year. All teachers will also receive our e-newsletter to the email address they register with us.

9) Download a wide-variety of resources to help you in your role

We've got loads of great documents in your online resources library which are free for you to use, download, and keep for future reference. These include guidance documents on how to utilise specific parts of the School Games website, how to make the most of young leaders or a media team, certificates and league ladder templates to help you run your competitions, criteria and support with key School Games elements such as the Mark and the Inclusive Health Check, and much more.

10) Access more than 100 sport formats and activity recommendations for you to try

There are currently 41 School Games sports providing between one and six different sets of formats all of which contain multiple cards with ideas for games and activities. These cards have been specifically designed by National Governing Bodies (NGBs) to meet their audience and many are specific to competition levels or year groups. There is also a number of specific inclusive sports and formats targeting young disabled pupils and ensuring that the School Games is as inclusive as possible.

Convinced?

Register for an account on the new School Games website at www.yourschoolgames.com.

Need support in getting started?

Contact your School Games Organiser or email info@yourschoolgames.com.

