



# Opening Schools Facilities Year 2

## Impact Report 2023-24

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## Introduction

**Opening Schools Facilities (OSF) is a Department for Education (DfE) school funding programme to meet the goals of the Government's School Sport and Activity Action Plan (SSAAP). The aim is to help schools to open their existing sport facilities, including school swimming pools, for a broader range of young people and to support the wider community by partnering with sporting organisations, who can help deliver activities in these settings. To support the OSF programme Hertfordshire has been awarded circa £400k per annum for the next three years (2023 - 2025), this grant will be distributed via the Partnership.**

## Project background

Since January 2023, we have been working on this phase of OSF alongside the national coordination partner, the Active Partnership National Team. The first year of the project, January – March 2023 was shortened due to a number of challenges, therefore a difficult comparator to year 2, April 2023 – March 2024.

The programme focuses on the following:



- Driving a youth informed community offer of activity on a school site in the most under-served communities.
- The upskilling and capacity building of schools to create longer term plans to open their facilities for the benefit of the community.
- To provide inspiring (young people want to), accessible (they can) and meaningful (they benefit) provision that helps improve physical activity levels and participation in their area.

## Implementation



OSF was targeted toward schools that would engage key audiences particularly based around place-based working and Active Local. School selection starts with insight of free school meals and IDACI (Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index) data, along with our knowledge from place-based team in Active Local areas. This creates a well-reviewed list of schools that are serving targeted communities based on location of school and considering key assets and community groups in our place-based locations. Other schools are also targeted based on having higher rates of free school meals, disabilities, or culturally diverse communities. Working with Schools Games Organisers, these schools deliver a project with students to develop an offer based around target audience: Inclusive champions, Coaching Academy and Girls Leadership.

HSP has funded 30 schools across Hertfordshire in Year 2 of OSF to the value of £359,084.89. Another 23 Schools funded in Year 1 are still collecting participation data from their projects that are sustaining activity beyond funding. This is a total of 43% more schools involved in the OSF on Year 1 (37 schools).

## Partnerships

30

Funded  
Schools

61

Funded  
Projects

### FUNDED SCHOOLS

#### Primary

Hollybush Primary School  
Broom Barns Primary School  
Bedwell Primary And Nursery School  
Woolgrove School, Special Needs Academy  
Warren Dell Primary School  
Woolenwick Junior School  
Mandeville Primary School  
The Reddings Primary School  
Four Swannes Primary School  
Ascot Road Primary School  
Greenfields Primary School  
Lime Walk Primary School  
Swallow Dell Primary And Nursery School

#### Secondary

The Sele School  
St Mary's Church of England High School  
Stevenage Education Support Centre  
Knights Templar School  
Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School  
Croxley Danes School  
Beaumont School  
Hertswood Academy  
The Adeyfield Academy  
Katherine Warrington School  
Knightsfield School  
Barclay Academy  
Ridgeway Academy  
The Thomas Alleyne Academy

#### All Throughs

Links Academy  
North Herts Education Support Centre  
Chessbrook Education Support Centre

## Outcomes and Benefits

HSP has funded a range of projects that has supported outcomes to benefit both pupils and wider community. Providing more opportunities for pupils to be active through extracurricular activity, 40 projects taking place before school, lunchtime (SEND) and after school. A further 21 projects focused on reaching the wider community by providing a venue for new clubs and activities during evenings, weekends and holidays.

Across the 61 projects, 441 additional hours of school's facilities a week have been opened for free or affordable activity to take place, supporting the most disadvantaged communities. Projects targeted audiences at the following rates: Children eligible for free school meals – 69%, Special educational needs and disabilities – 74%, Ethnically diverse communities – 11% and Girls – 62%.

Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School delivered on a project looking to improve facility for community use and provide a wider range of activity to support pupils attending the school. Additionally, the school are in the process of setting up their community use agreement to aid the development of the site's facilities and usage but also to ensure hirers and community users have input and access to a great facility on their doorstep. Ten community hirers and a neighbouring primary school have already made use of the improved facility since investment has improved MUGA surface and new equipment has been installed.

## Key Learnings

Invest in fewer schools with larger amount to enable better one-to-one support.

Challenge to approach all active local areas with similar expectations, some schools are not engaged at this stage despite opportunity.

Providing internal meetings with Active Local staff to provide updates on processes and needs from schools in each area.

OSF requires a lot of resource to manage the whole process due to schools being a challenging relationship, a lot of demand on data collection, collecting evidence of spend and managing projects schools deliver.

## Next Steps

1

Collecting project plans from Year 3 schools to enable activity in summer term.

2

Collecting and supporting schools with case studies from Year 1 & 2 of OSF to track progress.

3

Embedding sustainable activity in the last Year of OSF to enable schools to continue activity or benefits from funded equipment, training and activity.



## Conclusion

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OSF is providing a vital opportunity to support schools to provide more opportunities to pupils and community, particularly in disadvantaged communities where they may lack facilities.

Learning so far indicates we must continue to support existing schools from Years 1 & 2 to become sustainable through better partnerships particularly with Active Local networks.

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**11,870**

Community participation  
throughput



Department  
for Education



Opening  
School  
Facilities

