



To School Games Organisers and Hosts

5 August 2019

Dear Colleagues,

SCHOOL SPORT ACTION PLAN

On Monday 15 July, the Government published a School Sport and Activity Plan setting out the steps it, and others, will take to ensure that all children and young people have access to at least 60 minutes of physical activity a day, and are encouraged to take part in sport and physical activity as part of a healthy, active lifestyle (you can download the plan from www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-sport-and-activity-action-plan). I am writing to underline the important role the School Games and School Games Organisers have to play and to thank you for all that you do on behalf of the national partners¹. The work you do is essential to the success of the Games.

I trust that, like me, you were pleased to note that the plan seeks to build and maintain physical literacy, ensuring in particular that children have fun and enjoy being active. We now know from the Active Lives Children and Young People survey that enjoyment is the single most important factor in getting children active, and building their skills and confidence. The plan underlines the importance of sport and physical activity inside and outside schools, including high quality PE lessons and extra-curricular clubs and competitions.

It is important to note that the action plan sets out these important ambitions and principles, but an updated version later in the year will add more detail on actions and funding. Sport England and the Youth Sport Trust will continue to work with the three Departments (Department for Education, Department of Health and Social Care, and the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport) on next steps, including what the plan means for School Games Organisers. The initial plan published in July sets out the importance of the School Games and the key role the SGO network plays in delivering it, and we will be keen to establish how your existing work can align with the new action plan, as well as building on the principles and approaches that have underpinned the success of the School Games.

The updated plan will be an opportunity to set out the further detail on currently agreed actions, and to set out the ambitions of the new Prime Minister and cabinet. I am mindful that current funding for School Games Organisers runs until March 2020, and I am aware of the challenges this creates given school budget cycles and the different employment

¹ Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Department for Health and Social Care, Sport England, Youth Sport Trust, British Olympic Association and British Paralympic Association.



contracts that exist across the network. The Government is starting the process of a spending review and therefore cannot confirm any future funding commitments until departmental budgets have been agreed. Sport England and the Youth Sport Trust are working closely with Government, so please bear with us and we will keep you updated on progress.

Thank you again for the fantastic and inspirational work you do day in and day out. It has been great to get out and meet with some of you at the summer county festivals. I am always so impressed by what you do and the difference you make to youngsters.

I am sending a copy of this letter for information to your hosting school or authority.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Diaper". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name.

Mike Diaper
Executive Director Children, Young
People and Tackling Inactivity