

Active Schools is a national programme to provide opportunities for all children and young people to take part in sport and physical activity, before school, lunchtime and after school and should be free to the participant. Working in partnership with primary, secondary and special schools, the Active Schools network of over 400 professionals aims to increase the number and diversity of children and young people taking part in sport and physical activity. SportsScotland works in partnership with all 32 local authorities to invest in and support Active Schools which is dedicated to developing and supporting the delivery of high-quality sport and physical activity opportunities for children and young people.

Active Schools National Priorities

Active Schools plays a key role in the sporting system and aims to demonstrate the contribution of Active Schools to the Active Scotland Outcomes Framework (ASOF). Active Schools aims to work with partners locally in health, education, transport and environment to deliver an Active Scotland..

- Providing high quality opportunities for young people to take part in sport & physical activity before school, at lunchtime and after school
- Developing, leading, and supporting effective pathways to connect schools, clubs and communities
- Providing inclusive opportunities by using targeted approaches to remove barriers to participation
- Developing a network of volunteers to deliver activity sessions
- Developing and supporting leadership opportunities for young people

Active Schools Local Priorities

Active Schools Edinburghs' local focus areas are aligned to the Active Schools National Priorities and City of Edinburgh Council priorities of Ending Poverty by 2030, becoming a sustainable and net zero city and Wellbeing and Equalities.

By taking a person centred approach of engaging with children and young people who may experience barriers to participation, the Active Schools team in Edinburgh can provide targeted solutions to support their inclusion in activity, having a focus on areas of deprivation and greater impact on inactivity and inequality.

One way in which Active Schools Edinburgh address inactivity is to utilise school resources to identify pupils with lowest activity levels and provide extra-curricular introductory level sessions that are aimed at encouraging pupils to achieve 60 minutes activity per day.

Active Schools Edinburgh prioritise the provision of sport and physical activity opportunities locally, in line with the 20 minute neighbourhood strategy:

- More effective delivery of local services
- Support for a thriving local economy
- A supported and engaged community
- Accessible, green and people focussed local centres

Active Schools Edinburgh is committed to inclusion, working with a range of partners to ensure inclusion underpins everything in Active Schools. The approach is aligned to the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), and Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC), where all children and young people should feel like they belong and are part of something which will make a difference to their life, removing discrimination and other barriers to involvement.

Active Schools Edinburgh focus areas for 2021 to 2023 and how we link with the above frameworks are shown in the diagram on our website. Each cluster will focus on the areas most relevant to community need in their cluster, building capacity by training and developing local volunteers. Each Active Schools Coordinator will share agreed targets and actions through their cluster plan.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Find out more about Active Schools

Contact your Active Schools Coordinator

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on Extra Curricular Activity (ECA)

What is the role of the Active Schools Coordinators (ASC) in ECA?

Active Schools Coordinators have a variety of roles and responsibilities. In relation to ECA, ASCs are responsible for coordinating a sport and physical activity ECA programme with the primary, secondary and special schools in each cluster.

Who will deliver the Active Schools sessions?

ASCs will grow and develop a network of volunteers ensuring they have the confidence, skills, and knowledge to deliver quality sporting opportunities.

Volunteers who may be recruited include:

- Senior Pupils
- Parents/ Carers
- Teachers and other school staff
- Clubs
- Students (Further/Higher Education)

Funding may also be sourced where the decision is made, for example, to recruit paid coaches to deliver opportunities.

How will the delivery of the Active Schools programme work?

Active Schools term time extra-curricular clubs will be free to all participants.

The extra-curricular programmes will be implemented in a variety of ways depending on local need and circumstances. Each ASC will discuss the programme and its implementation with the school.

What operational tasks are ASCs responsible for?

ASCs will work in partnership with schools to create a free of charge programme. ASC support can include the following, depending on school need:

- Creating a booklet with details of the programme on offer
- Advertising through our online booking system
- Promotion (targeting as appropriate)
- Producing registers and appropriate paperwork including Risk Assessments
- Paying coaches where applicable (if funding is sourced)
- Cancellation of bookings if required
- Minimum Operating Requirements (MORs)
- Hall booking management (Primary school LETS before 6pm)
- Processing PVGs for deliverers
- Providing appropriate training for deliverers

Who is responsible for school sports teams?

National, Regional and Local:

School teams will remain the school's responsibility and ASCs can support the school representative if required.

If a school wishes to enter a competition, festival or event where transport is required, the school would continue to make decisions on the various funding options available to them

Can School equipment be used for Active Schools programmes?

Participants should continue to use school sports equipment such as basketballs, bean bags etc for Active Schools run sessions. Where exceptional wear and tear or loss is evident following these sessions, Active Schools will aim to support the replacement of such equipment. Other organisations including Parent Councils should discuss this with the school.

Can other organisations run a chargeable ECA programme and who will support them?

Yes, other organisations such as Parent Councils, Schools, Community Sports Clubs and Commercial Companies can run chargeable ECA programmes.

In addition to the free Active Schools term time programmes, ASCs can support partner organisations listed above to promote their sport and physical activity programmes.

The School/ Parent Council/ Club or other organisation will be responsible for:

- Creating a booklet with details of the programme on offer
- Promoting the programme and managing the bookings
- Producing registers and appropriate paperwork including Risk Assessments
- Paying coaches where applicable
- Cancellations if required
- MORs (Minimum Operating Requirements)
- Processing PVGs for Volunteers and Paid Coaches
- Providing appropriate training for Volunteers and Paid Coaches

Active Schools can support with:

- Schools and Parent Councils can use our online booking and payment system (if required). Please contact Active Schools for our terms and conditions regarding this.
- Promotion of activities
- Support with MORs and other procedures where required
- Hall booking management (Primary school LETS before 6pm)
- Spaces in the Active Schools Training Programme can be offered to Parent Council, School and Club Volunteers

What is the reporting and monitoring requirements of Active Schools for sportscotland?

Active Schools nationally collects and collates data from the Active Schools teams on a termly basis. This includes distinct participants, volunteer deliverers, club links and leadership programmes. All Active Schools teams are working to deliver their mainstream extracurricular programmes with an inclusive focus whilst targeting those groups in greatest need of inclusion. This includes areas of deprivation, children and young people with a disability and inactive children and young people. This allows for local teams to use their local data to determine who the inactive are for their school communities to ensure that they can tailor delivery on a needs led basis.

What further reporting, and monitoring is collated and analysed?

Active Schools will also collect information on all ECA physical activity and sport programmes across the City of Edinburgh Council school estate, in order to contribute towards the wider achievement report.

Will there be holiday provision?

Yes, there will be some holiday provision advertised from Active Schools and other partners. Active Schools holiday programmes may have a small charge. Where targeted opportunities are provided these will be free of charge.