



Elgin Academy ASG

Active Schools Annual Report 2014-15

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The Elgin Academy ASG includes five primary schools: Bishopmill, East End, Seafield, St Sylvesters and West End. The school rolls have increased in recent years with all five schools now providing education for over 200 pupils. The number of local sport clubs that we work with also continues to increase each year developing links from schools into the community. The close proximity of the schools enables us to deliver festivals and coaching sessions at central venues such as Cooper Park Community Sports Hub, Morrision Playing Fields, Elgin Town Hall, Moray College and Elgin Academy.

Impact of Active Schools

Over the 2014-15 school year there was a large increase in distinct participants and participant sessions (the uptake within activity sessions) alongside a steady growth in the figures for activity sessions (the number of opportunities we provide for children to get active). Across the ASG as a whole, 51.1% of pupils were involved in Active Schools extra-curricular sessions, a 10% rise on the previous year's figures.

This progress was achieved by a combination of factors. We continued to work with local sport clubs on annual extra-curricular projects which gradually increased our figures throughout the year. In the Autumn term we once again worked with the Moray Rugby Development Officer George Whitecross and volunteer coaches from Moray Rugby Club to introduce the sport across the Elgin primary schools. Over 120 pupils took part in coaching sessions with 60 competing in an end-of-project festival. In Winter term we worked in a similar fashion with Elgin Eagles Basketball Club. Coach Graham Stewart delivered coaching sessions to around 150 school pupils with 50 representing their schools at a fun festival to close the project. These projects, alongside others such as the Dance and Movement project in Spring term, provide a core of activities. This allows every pupil the opportunity to be involved in our programmes as they progress through the school.



Above: Roy briefs participants before a tournament at Elgin Academy.

Deliverers Network

We continued to develop our coaching workforce across Elgin with the percentage of sessions delivered by volunteers rising from 64% to 81% over the year. An increase in working with school staff and community volunteers contributed towards this.

At the start of the school year Active Schools organised a Netball Scotland ‘Netball Leaders’ course which developed our volunteers knowledge of the sport, equipped them with coaching resources and a coaching qualification. Netball was delivered in the extra-curriculum at three of the five schools. At Seafield both Primary 6/7 and Primary 4/5 sessions were offered to girls at the school. These were lead throughout the year by school staff member Audrey Pirie, parent Paula Gray and two community volunteers. At West End Netball was introduced to girls from primary 5-7 by teachers Sarah Badenoch and Amy Morgan. Also at Bishopmill Netball continued to be delivered by community volunteer Fiona Houlston with support from a teacher, two secondary school students and some parents. The majority of these groups entered teams in the Moray Primary Schools Netball league which provides a competitive edge and focus to the coaching sessions.

There was also success with volunteer lead running club sessions prior to the Active Schools Moray Primary Schools Cross Country. Hayley Burns, a teacher at West End, delivered after-school and lunchtime coaching sessions to Primary 4-7 pupils which developed their stamina and prepared them for the cross country event. Parent volunteer Debs Gault also delivered a block of coaching at East End to Primary 5-7 pupils, and there was also a school-club link created with the Moray Road Runners.

School to Club Links

We are fortunate in Elgin to have a variety of enthusiastic local sport clubs to work with on a regular basis. The number of school to club links across the whole ASG rose from 78 to 80 this year with each school linking with at least 15 clubs. As discussed above, various annual projects help us to develop these links and one of these is the Summer Club Links Week.

This popular summer programme has been delivered annually since 2011 and each year we have used the Cooper Park Community Sports Hub as a base. A different taster session was delivered each day by local club coaches and in the 2014 programme sessions were delivered by Elgin Bowling Club, Moray Rugby Club, Moray Mountain Bike Club, Quasar Hockey Club, Elgin Junior Jog Scotland, Karate Academy Scotland and Active Gymnastics. The morning session catered for upper primary levels while the afternoon session targeted 5-7 year olds. At the end of each session participants were provided with information on how to sign up for the local club sessions which lead to an increase in junior membership.

We also continued to seek out new clubs to work with and in Summer term we developed a link with the Pinz Ten Pin Bowling Club. A block of four taster sessions were delivered to 68 Elgin school pupils by qualified volunteer club coach Billie Robertson, teaching the basics and raising

“*Netball Scotland enjoy a close working relationship with the Moray Active Schools team and the benefits of this have been seen across the Netball community. Primary school children have a fantastic introduction to netball provided through Active Schools volunteer coaches, and we have worked alongside Active Schools to train up more netball leaders and coaches throughout the region. We look forward to continuing the development of Netball within Moray alongside the team of coordinators.*”

*Sally Carns
Regional Development
Manager, Netball Scotland*

the awareness of the sport in a fun environment. Through working with more clubs we are able to offer an extended range of activities which appeals to more pupils and in turn increases our distinct participant figures.

The attached monitoring report has been produced by Sportscotland on our behalf, and contains the 'outputs' of our efforts to create more opportunities for children to get active in 2014-15. This type of report can also be produced for individual schools and may be useful for inspections, for dissemination to parents, or simply for your own information. Please contact me directly if this is something you would find useful.

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Elgin Academy ASG