

Cross-sector school Sports Partnerships Report

Impact summary

June 2026



SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS
Alliance



Sports Partnerships Impact overview

Introduction - The power of sports partnership					
Partnership	Host school(s) pupils	Partner school(s) pupils	Pupil testimonials	Staff testimonials	Benefits
Advancing inclusion, wellbeing, and language of ESOL students through sport (Harrow School with Harrow College)	(2 sports coaches)	120+ ESOL	'I really enjoy playing sports at Harrow School. It's great that we can play indoors when it's cold. The coaches are really nice and always help us.' 'I like trying new sports. I got to play badminton and table tennis for the first time, and it was fun!' 'I never played sports back in my country, but at Harrow School I learned badminton and basketball. It was really fun. Now I play badminton with our college Coach Ian after class at Westminster University Hall, and I've made new friends too.'	'The coached sport sessions at Harrow School have significantly enhanced the ESOL programme by helping students improve their English language skills and gain a better understanding of life and culture in the UK. These sessions have also played an important role in supporting students' mental well-being.' 'Students reported that they found the cricket sessions enjoyable and engaging. They appreciated learning new skills and looked forward to attending. The coach's personalised approach was especially valued, as he provided guidance on how to join local cricket clubs and helped students build self-confidence. Overall, students felt supported and appreciated during the sessions. The coaches built positive relationships with the students, based on mutual respect and trust. This helped create a welcoming environment where students felt comfortable taking part in various sports.'	Enhanced language acquisition, wellbeing, and social confidence Students continuing to play sport outside school Mental health benefits Social and cultural capital

Why playing sport in school matters					
Partnership	Host school(s) pupils	Partner school(s) pupils	Pupil testimonials	Staff testimonials	Benefits
Weekly sports scheme (Millfield School with Wookey Primary School)	23 including Sports captains	52 Y3 - 6	'It has made me love sports even more and now I feel much more confident in myself.' (Wookey pupil) 'It has made me do lots more sport than just rugby and football.' (Wookey pupil) 'I believe giving children opportunities to play sport and making it fun is fundamental to their education. It is massively rewarding seeing the children's smiles when they arrive at Millfield, and I hope that projects like this can happen more often. The percentage of drop out needs to change, and I hope this project leads the way at least within the local schools.' (Millfield Captain of School)	'Visiting the campus and seeing the variety of sports being played, the facilities, trophies, posters etc. raises the children's awareness and opens their eyes to the possibilities. The experience is thoroughly enjoyable for all with huge levels of excitement every session and getting to try sports they may not have even heard of is awesome.' (Wookey Primary staff member)	Pupils from Wookey Primary: Try a variety of new sports. Build confidence and enthusiasm for physical activity. Stay engaged in sport, helping reduce the risk of children dropping out of sport as they grow older—particularly girls. Learn from positive role models, as Millfield student leaders coach and encourage them. Millfield students develop leadership, communication and coaching skills

Why sports partnerships matter					
Partnership	Host school(s) pupils	Partner school(s) pupils	Pupil testimonials	Staff testimonials	Benefits
Rowing Academy – Raising Opportunity and Widening Inclusion (The Oxford Academy and Radley College)	Y9 and above	Y9 and above		‘Our partnership works because while our contexts are very different, our values are the same; our institutions are aligned... Part of our relationship has always been mutual respect, understanding, and a commitment to learning from each other and joint problem-solving.’ ‘In terms of benefits to the children... It's changing how they perceive themselves and helping them build resilience. They are overcoming obstacles and seeing themselves as successful.’ (Head Teacher, The Oxford Academy)	Long-term engagement in physical activity and sport Enhanced Opportunities and Inclusion Broadened participation and raised aspiration Improved Health and Wellbeing Leadership, Confidence, and Life Skills Increased community connection and civic responsibility ‘In every metric: attendance, achievement points, academic progress, all pupils on the rowing partnership programme have improved.’ (Head Teacher, The Oxford Academy)

Sport within the National Curriculum - Broad range of activities					
Partnership	Host school(s) pupils	Partner school(s) pupils	Pupil testimonials	Staff testimonials	Benefits
Baseball (Radley College and St John Fisher Primary School)	Young Sports Leaders	150 pupils Y5		‘Working in partnership broadens horizons—our children learn they aren’t defined by their backgrounds. They can rise above challenges.’ (St John Fisher Primary School teacher)	Joint CPD / mutual skills development Fostering inclusion and resilience Sustained impact and lasting relationships Building social and emotional skills High quality coaching Positive role models
Multi-sports project (King’s College School, Wimbledon, with Ronald Ross Primary School)	24 students (inc. tennis team members)	60 Y5 & 6	The biggest difference which King’s students have made through this project is: ‘inspiring the primary school children to participate in sports and activities, considering some of them were reluctant at the start of the year.’ ‘helping kids see the fun in sport and exercise and helping them develop that passion’ ‘teaching the kids a sport that they may not have played before or understood’	‘Our Y5/Y6 pupils have the benefit of the sports facilities and are mentored by the KCSW students acting as role models to build their resilience, self-esteem, confidence, social skills, teamwork skills and fitness levels.’ (Year 6 teacher Ronald Ross Primary School)	Positive impact on pupils’ confidence in their ability to play sport Improved resilience, self-esteem, confidence, social skills, teamwork skills and fitness levels King’s students develop leadership skills, teaching and communication skills, and resilience
Sports Masterclasses (City of London School for Girls with Aldgate Primary School)	Sports captains and sports scholars	30 Y5	‘I felt more confident at the end of the session’ (Aldgate Primary School pupil) ‘It was a great opportunity to practice some leadership and communication skills’ (CLGS pupil)	‘Year 5 pupils [had] a chance to get active and motivated in a different setting’ (Aldgate Primary School teacher)	Access to sports not available in the partner school

Sport within the National Curriculum - Competitive sports					
Partnership	Host school(s) pupils	Partner school(s) pupils	Pupil testimonials	Staff testimonials	Benefits
Year 7 girls' football tournament (City of London School for Girls)		Y7 girls			Showcase for skills acquired during the term Experience competition in a tournament
Bancroft's School and Greenhouse Sports Tennis partnership	Tennis Ambassadors	62+		'The players had a great time and are already looking forward to next year. One has already had his mum order a new racket in preparation!!' (St Paul's Trust School Senior Head Coach) 'I had students who attended who have a difficult time attending regular school clubs and activities outside school because of religious and cultural commitments. To have their parental permission and for them to then win matches was so significant. It could be a real breakthrough for the parents' perception of tennis and the girls were so pleased about their performance.' (Sarah Bonnell School)	Experience of tennis doubles competition Bancroft's students develop management and hosting skills
Redbridge Swimming Gala (Hosted by Bancroft's School)		100+			Celebration of teamwork, perseverance, and mutual respect. Opportunity to take part in competitive swimming event

Sport within the National Curriculum - Swimming and water safety					
Partnership	Host school(s) pupils	Partner school(s) pupils	Pupil testimonials	Staff testimonials	Benefits
Bancroft's Community Commitment to swimming		50+			Increased access to swimming for primary pupils Building physical fitness, coordination, and stamina, while boosting confidence and resilience
Primary School Swimming (CLSG with City of London Primary Academy Islington & Prior Weston Primary School and Children's Centre)	(4 members of staff)	90	'Really really fun, I can swim and be better swimmer' 'I find the swimming lessons good cause I am much better than I was last year' '[I find them] Good and helpful for when you get older and go on holidays'	'Our children, some of whom are extremely vulnerable, are making excellent progress in swimming. As we know, this is more than just a hobby but potentially a lifesaving life skill.' 'We are so very appreciative of this new relationship – you are making a tremendous difference to our children.' (Headteacher, Prior Weston)	Vulnerable children making progress in swimming Accessing the full National Curriculum requirements
Swimming and watersafety project (Wimbledon Highwith Melrose Primary School, Merton)		7 – 10 with SEND			Improved swimming Building water confidence Deeper understanding of water safety Building confidence in pupils' interactions with staff Giving pupils access to the full PE curriculum
Whiteknights Swimming with Leighton Park Sports Leaders	Y10 and Y12 coaches	KS2			66% children were able to swim; 45% children met all three [National Curriculum] criteria and were competent and confident swimmers. 47% children could use a range of strokes effectively 62% Pupil Premium children were able to swim; 31% Pupil Premium children were Competent and confident swimmers

					50% children can perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situation
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Addressing resource inequalities					
Partnership	Host school(s) pupils	Partner school(s) pupils	Pupil testimonials	Staff testimonials	Benefits
Dulwich College and City Heights E-ACT Academy Partnership	6 Y12 rugby leaders	71 Y7	‘Working with the City Heights pupils has really developed my confidence and taught me how to communicate clearly and encourage others—skills that go far beyond the rugby pitch.’ (Dulwich College Sixth Former)	‘Our pupils absolutely love these sessions. They return to school energised and motivated, and they’re gaining access to facilities and coaching that inspire real ambition.’ (City Heights staff) ‘It’s wonderful to see both groups learning from one another. Our pupils are developing as mentors and leaders, while City Heights pupils are thriving through new sporting opportunities.’ (Dulwich College staff)	Accessing sporting facilities and opportunities pupils might not otherwise have Specialist coaching in rugby and swimming Enhancing physical development and confidence for the Academy pupils Developing leadership, coaching and communication skills for the Dulwich College students
Warwickshire Primary School Cricket Programme (Schools of King Edward VI Foundation in Birmingham and Warwickshire Cricket Board)		c. 1500 pupils from Y4-6			Introducing primary pupils to a sport they do not have facilities to play. Significantly broadened access of primary pupils to cricket. Provided access to high-quality facilities and specialist coaching. Increased inclusion of pupils in schools with high levels of disadvantage and underrepresentation in cricket. Created a sustainable, low-cost model through shared funding & partnership.
RGS Swim Confidence Club (Royal Grammar School Newcastle)	~ 30 Y5/6s	120+ Y4-6	‘I have enjoyed it a lot and learned how to swim backwards. I have learned a new skill in my life.’ (Westgate Hill pupil) ‘I really like it and the swimming teachers are really nice to us. I have learned about life saving which is very important’ (Westgate Hill pupil) ‘I have learned what to do if someone is drowning’ (Westgate Hill pupil)	‘Some of our children have never been in a pool before. This gives them a chance to gain a vital life skill. It also helps them get used to visiting other schools and meeting new staff, which is great for their confidence.’ (Milecastle Primary School Headteacher) ‘Thank you so much for having us. I know that our Year 4s have absolutely	Learning to swim, gain vital lifesaving skills, and grow in confidence Increased social skills Swimming training for 30 SCITT trainee PE teachers

			'It has been my favourite club in school ever!' (Westgate Hill pupil) 'The people at RGS made the sessions fun and I can now swim more confidently.' (Westgate Hill pupil) 'The pool itself was so clean and I enjoyed myself. I am now more confident in the water.' (Westgate Hill pupil) 'I am so proud that I can swim 25m.' (Westgate Hill pupil)	loved coming to RGS for their swimming lessons this term - the progress they have made is phenomenal' (Lemington Teacher) 'my staff were blown away by the support your staff gave and progress our children made.' (Newburn Head)	
Judo (Harrow School with Norbury Primary School)	Around 10 Harrow boys 2 coaches	90		'The moral code of judo reinforces school values, while training in our unique Olympic sport builds resilience and character. It has been a privilege to share these principles with local primary school children.' (Harrow lead)	For Norbury pupils, the sessions provided access to a highly disciplined, culturally rich sport rarely offered within the mainstream PE curriculum. Feedback from Norbury staff highlighted gains in confidence, focus, and enthusiasm for physical activity. Harrow students, gained opportunities for leadership, communication, and reflection on their own development as athletes and strengthen their understanding of judo not only as a competitive pursuit, but as a means of service.
Sharing facilities (Charterhouse with local schools)		1500+ primary pupils and more			Access to facilities not available in their own schools
Sharing facilities and expertise in Fives (Harrow School)	15 Harrow students (1 coach)	c. 150			Introducing pupils to a sport they do not have facilities to play
Sharing facilities and support for	10 Harrow students	80		'A big thank you to you and Harrow School for funding the swimming programme, much appreciated. Thank	Supporting water confidence, physical fitness, and essential life skills

swimming (Harrow School)	(4 Harrow coaches)			you for always trying your best for Roxeth! Every bit of help goes a long way.' (Roxeth Primary School)	Regular access to swimming instruction for those who might not otherwise have it
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Sport for all					
Partnership	Host school(s) pupils	Partner school(s) pupils	Pupil testimonials	Staff testimonials	Benefits
Able2B's Discover Your Ability Day with Norwich School	30	50	'This amazing day was finished by a huge hug and an exchange of numbers so we can stay in contact. This was probably one of the best days that I've ever been involved in.' (Norwich School sixth former)	'The main thing we achieved with this is that they [student volunteers] realise they aren't there to help people, they're there to work with them and realise the person they're working with has got much to offer back' (Rachael Hutchinson, Able2B CEO) 'Our pupils develop greatly through the relationships they build... it is very much a two-way partnership' (Nicola Hill, Norwich School)	Developing the confidence and self-belief of disabled children and adults through sport Changing perceptions of disability Empowering young people to influence change Building strong relationships
Primary Schools Cricket Development Project (Harrow School)	10 Harrow cricketers (1 coach)	400+ weekly	'I felt that my ability to plan and then improvise on the spot based upon numbers greatly improved. However, the best part of the whole experience was watching them progress so rapidly and pick up the love for the game.' (Harrow cricketer)	'We would very much like to continue with these sessions in the future. They have a useful impact on the health and wellbeing of the pupils, It is good to see the pupils being active and taking part in a sport that they enjoy and that is not football.' (Roxeth Primary School)	Enhancing pupils' playing skills, fostering teamwork, and improving social skills. Notable growth in confidence by realizing their potential for progress. Positive impact on pupils' collaboration, and communication abilities. Developing critical cricketing skills while also understanding the importance of collaboration. Mutual inspiration, motivating all involved to excel and broaden their perspectives. Positive contribution to pupils' overall health and wellbeing.
Bancroft's swimming project with Pool Schools	Pupils help deliver sessions	5+			Increased access to swimming for children with disabilities Pupil leaders develop empathy, communication, and leadership skills

Clifton Hill Sports Partnership with Caterham School	30 lower sixth	30 Y7-11 SEND with SLD	'Working with the Clifton Hill students was new, challenging and incredibly rewarding. I developed real communication skills and patience.' (Caterham L6 pupil)	'All the students were able to participate at a level appropriate to their abilities. The activities and pace were perfect.' (Clifton Hill Deputy Head)	Experiencing joyful, tailored sport for Clifton Hill pupils. Promoting physical development, coordination, and social confidence. Improving social engagement for Clifton Hill pupils Developing empathy, communication and leadership in Caterham pupils, Building maturity, awareness and emotional intelligence for Caterham Sixth Formers.
THD Phoenix (Dulwich College with ten local primary schools and Tulse Hill and Dulwich Hockey Club (THD))	Student coaches	50 Y5 & Y6 across 10 primary schools	'Hockey has become a really big part of my life and we have started looking at secondary schools that play hockey'. (primary pupil) 'I like practising my skills at Phoenix and seeing my improvements. Hockey has helped me learn to keep trying and stay focused.' (primary pupil)	'We provide a safe, nurturing environment where children, carefully guided and supported by our coaches, can build lasting friendships and enjoy the benefits of regularly participating in sports and being part of a sports club.' (Tulse Hill and Dulwich HC) 'This programme isn't just about creating hockey players, it really is about removing barriers and widening pathways. Welcoming people from across the borough and our diverse community into sport, not just hockey, but into a sport and a club. And it shows that when you work together, we don't just grow a sport, we do really do grow community.' (Jenny Stanley, Dulwich College)	Removing barriers to a sport pupils might never otherwise play Providing coaching for skills development Building a sense of community, teamwork and confidence Clear pathway into club membership

The benefits sport brings					
Partnership	Host school(s) pupils	Partner school(s) pupils	Pupil testimonials	Staff testimonials	Benefits
School of Hard Knocks (SOHK) with Harrow School and local secondary schools	20 Harrow boys (Referees, coaches, mentors)	250	‘Personally, SoHK has provided me with a ‘safe space’ where I can express my emotions with both my group and the coaches’ ‘Being part of SoHK has given me a sense of purpose and belonging. It’s [taught] me the importance of perseverance and the power of a supportive group. I’m grateful for the positive impact it’s had on me.’ ‘SoHK changed me and my mates, we all faced our fears and showed our strengths and weaknesses throughout the year, making sure that we were able to beat our weaknesses and make our strengths bigger and better.’		Developing rugby’s core values including teamwork, respect, enjoyment, discipline and sportsmanship Promoting emotional literacy, teamwork and perseverance Improved teamwork and resilience Positive educational outcomes - relative behaviour points dropped (2.61 to 2.20) and relative achievement points rose (0.85 to 0.95) for the SOHK cohort Mental health and wellbeing Leadership development for Harrow students
Sports Leaders at Prior’s Field (Prior’s Field School with Queen Eleanor’s C of E Junior School)	53 Y10 & Y11 sports leaders	180 Y5-6	‘I really liked learning new sports from the older students, they made it fun and listened to us’ (Queen Eleanor’s pupil) ‘The experience gave us a better understanding of younger students and how to control larger groups.’ (Sports Leader) ‘We got to try new ways of teaching and saw real improvement in the younger students.’ (Sports Leader)	‘Our Sports Leader partnership with Queen Eleanor School continues to flourish, creating a vibrant environment where older students inspire younger learners through teamwork, confidence and a shared enjoyment of sport and activities. The evident energy between the older and younger students is fantastic — the older students step up as inspiring role models, while younger learners respond with enthusiasm and curiosity... This growing collaboration is making a real impact and remains a highlight of our Sports Leader course and journey.’	Prior’s Field students gain a leadership skills and grow as role models They develop coaching, communication, adaptability and teamwork skills They gain the Sports Leaders qualification. Queen Eleanors pupils are introduced to a range of sports and activities they might not otherwise experience.

				'The Sports Leader sessions at Queen Eleanor School create a positive learning environment for both the younger pupils and our leaders. The Queen Eleanor pupils respond enthusiastically to the Sports Leaders' energy, creativity and encouragement. Our Sports Leaders gain valuable experience in managing groups, teaching new skills and demonstrating real maturity in how they support and motivate the children.'	
EKST Sports Spectacular hosted by St.Edmund's School, Canterbury (East Kent Schools Together (EKST))	Sports Science students hosted and led sessions			'It is always wonderful to watch a group of 'strangers' grow into friends as they bond throughout the day, developing social skills and building connections, all through the power of sport.' (St. Edmund's Head of JS PE) 'Another highlight of the event is that it brings together colleagues from very different schools across the partnership who can share experiences, swap notes and explore additional ways of collaborating together.' (Claire Bridger, EKST)	Improving physical wellness and teamwork in supportive environments Developing social skills and building connections Collaborating in mixed teams and developing their confidence Introducing students to new physical activities

Extra- / Co-curricular activities					
Partnership	Host school(s) pupils	Partner school(s) pupils	Pupil testimonials	Staff testimonials	Benefits
Primary extra-curricular multisport club (Abingdon School with local primaries)	13 coaches	20+ primary	'I enjoyed it so much the coaches were very friendly and in the end I understood football more than I used to before. I also liked mixing with new people.' (Primary pupil) 'Within the club we plan sessions: including equipment, activities and session admin, as well as managing safeguarding, engaging all the children that come to our sessions, and try to create a positive atmosphere. All of which has helped me develop skills in leadership, teamwork, planning and empathy. Overall, I think it is a great opportunity and would highly recommend it to anyone who has an interest in sports or helping others.' (Abingdon student coach)	'During my visits to the Multi-Sport Partnership Programme, I witnessed tremendous growth in Abingdon pupils as leaders, role models, and teachers within our wider community.' (Director of Sport, Abingdon School)	100% of multisport attendees would recommend the club to a friend 20% of student coaches felt very confident working with younger children before taking part, this increased to 83% at the end of the programme. 11% increase in students who felt confident or very confident communicating with younger children.

Addressing 'One of the worst statistics in British sport' (Moynihan, 2012)					
Partnership	Host school(s) pupils	Partner school(s) pupils	Pupil testimonials	Staff testimonials	Benefits
Primary Lacrosse Festival (St Mary's Calne)	Young leaders	100+ Y5 & Y6	'I'm having a lot of fun because even if we do lose, it's still a lot of fun coming out here and playing.' (primary pupil) 'We were learning skills, like how to cradle, how to pass, and how to get a ground ball.' (primary pupil) 'I like all the team spirit and how we pass it and score goals and cheer.' (primary pupil)	'It's great to be here - the girls were fantastic this morning. We came knowing very little about lacrosse and I'm just watching two of my teams play here and they're doing a grand job.' (Deputy Head, Priestley Primary School)	88% of pupils agreed or strongly agreed with the statement 'I enjoyed my day playing lacrosse' Only 12% of pupils disagreed with the statement 'I want to play more lacrosse in the future' Pupils most enjoyed: acquiring new skills specific to lacrosse, and the opportunity to make new friends and meet people from different schools The most common single words used to describe the day were 'fun', 'amazing', 'exciting' and 'friendly'.

Benefits of Sports Partnerships

(An AI summary of benefits, organised by theme.)

Health & Wellbeing

- Improved mental health and long-term engagement in physical activity
- Enhanced physical fitness, coordination, stamina, and resilience
- Reduced risk of children dropping out of sport as they get older, particularly girls
- Positive contribution to overall health and wellbeing across all partnerships

66% of pupils could swim; 47% could use a range of strokes effectively after partnership swimming programmes

Leadership & Life Skills

- Older students develop leadership, communication, coaching, and management skills
- Improved resilience, self-esteem, teamwork, and social skills for all participants
- Students gain formal qualifications such as the Sports Leaders award
- Increased empathy, emotional intelligence, and maturity in sixth-form and senior students

20% of coaches felt confident working with younger children before the programme; this rose to 83% by the end

Academic & Educational Outcomes

- Improved attendance, academic progress, and achievement points
- Enhanced language acquisition and social confidence
- Positive behaviour outcomes linked to sport participation
- Access to the full PE curriculum, including sports not available in partner schools

"In every metric—attendance, achievement points, academic progress—all pupils on the rowing programme have improved." (Head Teacher, The Oxford Academy)

Inclusion & Access

- Access to facilities, coaching, and sports that partner schools could not otherwise provide
- Increased swimming access, including for Pupil Premium and disabled children
- Introduction to culturally rich, specialist sports (e.g. judo, lacrosse, rowing)
- Developing confidence and self-belief in disabled children and adults through sport
- Removing barriers and changing perceptions of disability

62% of Pupil Premium children could swim; 50% could perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations

Community & Social Impact

- Stronger community connections and increased civic responsibility
- Positive role models provided by older students coaching younger pupils
- Celebration of teamwork, perseverance, and mutual respect through competition and events
- Sustained, lasting relationships between partner institutions
- Mutual inspiration benefiting both senior students and younger participants

Behaviour points dropped (2.61 to 2.20) and achievement points rose (0.85 to 0.95) for the SOHK cohort

Pupil Enjoyment & Aspiration

- High levels of enjoyment and enthusiasm for new sports and physical activity
- Pupils motivated to continue playing sport outside school
- Broadened horizons and raised aspirations through exposure to new opportunities
- Making new friends and meeting people from different schools

*88% of pupils enjoyed their lacrosse day; only 12% did not want to play more.
Most common words used: "fun", "amazing", "exciting", "friendly"*

Summary of feedback from testimonials

(An AI summary of feedback.)

The testimonials suggest that sports partnerships provide significant benefits for both pupils and staff across educational, social, emotional, and personal development areas.

For pupils, the partnerships:

- Increase enjoyment of school and sport
- Build confidence and self-belief
- Improve physical fitness and sporting skills
- Support mental health and wellbeing
- Develop teamwork, communication, and social skills
- Encourage resilience, perseverance, and commitment
- Provide access to sports and experiences they might not otherwise have
- Raise aspirations and motivation to succeed
- Create positive relationships with peers and adults
- Help pupils feel included, valued, and supported
- Foster leadership and responsibility
- Encourage long-term participation in sport and healthy lifestyles

For staff and schools, the partnerships:

- Strengthen relationships between schools and communities
- Provide opportunities for collaboration and shared expertise
- Enhance teaching and coaching practice through shared learning
- Support inclusive and innovative provision
- Build mutual respect and understanding across sectors
- Create sustainable partnerships based on shared values and trust
- Improve engagement and outcomes for pupils
- Reinforce the wider educational value of sport beyond competition

Overall, the testimonials suggest that sports partnerships are about far more than physical activity alone; they contribute to confidence, inclusion, wellbeing, aspiration, educational engagement, and community connection.