

School Games

September/October Newsletter

2025

School Games 2025 – Your Reason WHY

School Games 2025: Vision, Mission & Values

Vision

To make a positive and meaningful difference to the lives of children and young people through sport and physical activity.

Mission

To put physical activity and school sport at the heart of school life, giving every young person the opportunity to enjoy competition, develop confidence, and achieve their personal best.

Values (Spirit of the Games)

- Determination – never giving up.
- Honesty – playing fairly and truthfully.
- Respect – valuing others and the rules.
- Teamwork – working together for success.
- Passion – showing enthusiasm and energy.
- Self-belief – having confidence in your ability.

2025 Pledges

- Tackle inequalities – ensure everyone can access sport.
- Empower youth voice – involve young people in shaping their sport experiences.
- Build physical literacy – develop competence, confidence, and motivation to move.

Youth Sport Trust – PE & School Sport Annual Report 2025 Highlights

- 2.2 million children in England do less than 30 minutes of physical activity daily.
- Only 48% of children achieve the 60-minute activity target.
- Girls, SEND pupils, and disadvantaged children are least active.
- 1 in 10 children experience obesity or poor wellbeing.
- 1 in 5 schools report cancelled PE lessons.
- 1 in 3 teachers say pupils start school with weaker physical skills.
- 70% of parents say digital distractions reduce children's activity.
- Awareness of the 60-minute guideline is low (only 34% of teachers and 32% of parents know it).

The positives:

93% of young people say PE is important.

71% want more physical activity.

96% of teachers believe sport improves mental health.

Why Engaging with the School Games Process Matters

Engaging fully with the School Games programme supports young learners in powerful ways:

1. Promotes Health and Wellbeing

Regular participation helps tackle inactivity, obesity, and poor mental health.

Encourages lifelong habits of physical activity and self-care.

2. Builds Personal and Social Skills

Learners develop teamwork, communication, leadership, and resilience.

Values such as honesty and respect improve classroom and playground behaviour.

3. Supports Academic and Emotional Development

Physical activity improves concentration, memory, and mood.

It fosters confidence and motivation that transfer into learning.

● 4. Reduces Inequalities


Inclusive competitions and accessible opportunities allow every child to succeed, not just the most able.

It helps bridge gaps for disadvantaged groups, SEND pupils, and those less engaged in traditional sport.

5. Empowers Youth Voice

Pupils take ownership through leadership and event planning, building pride and community spirit.

Thank you to the school that attended the SJW PE lead meeting Thursday 18th September 2025.

Information/powerpoints were shared post meeting, however if you did not receive the information, please let me know and I will email across 

England Hockey – KS2 Festival

We kicked off our first School Games festival with an Engage and Inspire event led by England Hockey and our local club, Barford Tigers. Pupils from several schools attended King Edward VI Handsworth Wood Girls' School, where they learned new hockey skills, met new people, and took part in exciting conditioned games.

It was a mixed-ability, mixed-gender event, with everyone fully involved and demonstrating the true values of the School Games — teamwork, respect, passion, determination, honesty, and self-belief.

A special thank you goes to King Edward VI Handsworth Wood Girls' School for hosting and providing fantastic young leaders to support the event. An extra big thank you to the Barford Tigers players for taking time out of their day jobs to inspire and motivate our young pupils to get active and try something new.

Thank you to the following schools for attending:

1. Cherry Orchard Primary
2. Nelson Junior School
3. Oasis Foundry
4. St Teresa's Catholic School



Netball Festival – KS2

A huge thank you to St Paul's Girls' Catholic School for hosting the KS2 Netball Festival. Pupils took part in an engaging skills carousel led brilliantly by St Paul's sports leaders, who were enthusiastic, supportive, and inspiring throughout.

As the session progressed, pupils developed their understanding of the game and showcased their new skills in two fantastic netball matches played to a high standard. The leaders were outstanding — stepping up as coaches, cheerleaders, and role models all at once!

Throughout the festival, pupils demonstrated the School Games values in action:

Teamwork – working together to make sure everyone was included.

Passion – playing with energy and enthusiasm.

Respect – supporting teammates and opponents alike.

Determination – never giving up, even when the games got competitive.

Self-belief – showing confidence to try new skills and take on challenges.

A brilliant event that captured the true spirit of the School Games — well done to everyone involved!

Thank you to the following schools for attending:

1. Nelson Junior School
2. Oasis Foundry
3. St Patricks/St Edmunds
4. The Oratory



Future Prospects Leadership – secondary



A group of SJW GCSE PE Y9 students attended part 1 of the future prospects leadership trip at Trinity Road, Aston. To gain an understanding of different careers involved in sport.

The students had an amazing day and we received such positive feedback ● they are looking forward to part 2 already!

Basketball Festival – KS2

A group of pupils attended a KS2 Engage Basketball Festival hosted at King Edward VI Handsworth Wood Girls' School. The festival was designed specifically for Pupil Premium students, giving them a valuable opportunity to take part in basketball, develop new skills, and build confidence in a supportive environment.

Pupils took part in an exciting skills carousel led by the fantastic student leaders from King Edward VI Handsworth Wood Girls, who were encouraging, enthusiastic, and excellent role models. To finish, pupils showcased what they had learned in a friendly, non-competitive game against other schools — demonstrating great teamwork and enjoyment throughout.

Throughout the festival, pupils displayed the true School Games values:

Self-belief – having the confidence to try something new.

Determination – giving their best effort in every activity.

Teamwork – working together and supporting one another.

Respect – listening carefully to leaders and showing good sportsmanship.

Passion – playing with energy and enthusiasm from start to finish.

A huge thank you to King Edward VI Handsworth Wood Girls' School for hosting and providing such inspiring leaders — the event was a brilliant celebration of inclusion, confidence, and the power of sport!

Thank you to the following schools for attending:

1. Cherry Orchard Primary School
2. Nelson Junior School
3. Oasis Foundry
4. St Clares Catholic School



Move Now Festival – Secondary

A number of SJW students attending the lets move festival at Neachells Well-Being Centre available for all scondaries within the partnership to sign up for. The festival was led/organised by the lead inclusion school – Stuart Wilson and BMET leaders support the festival.

Students played a number of different activities they had not played before .e.g. archery and boccia.

See below some of the comments made post trip:

"When I first walked in, I was a bit nervous but I really enjoyed it. I really enjoyed archery because I was able to practise my aim and the leaders cheered me on. I now feel more confident with activities." - Izaiah.

"My favourite sport was basketball because when I tried, I failed a few times, but the leaders kept believing in me, so I felt really motivated." - Vanessa.

"I enjoyed archery because it was fun and I enjoyed trying to hit the target. I now feel more confident and brave if I was asked to do it again." - Alice.

We even got to see a former SJW student who is now studying sports leadership at BMET 🍌



Barclays Football Conference

What is the Barclays Girls' Football School Partnership?

Launched in 2019 in collaboration with The FA and England Football, the BGFSP is a nationwide scheme to ensure girls have equal access to football in schools.

It's delivered through a network of "Girls' Football in Schools" programmes, with support from the Youth Sport Trust, local strategic leads, and participating schools.

The goal is to mainstream girls' football — making it a regular and embedded part of school life (not a fringe activity).

Achievements & Scale So Far

Over 20,000 schools are now participating in the BGFSP network.

Since the programme began, 3.8 million girls have been empowered to play football in schools.

As of 2023, 75% of schools have achieved equal access to girls playing football in PE lessons.

58% of schools offer equal extra-curricular football opportunities for girls.

In 2024, Barclays extended its partnership with the FA until 2028, doubling down on support for girls' football and expanding efforts especially in secondary schools.

More focus is now being placed on keeping girls in sport during adolescence, bridging school-to-club pathways, and deepening impact in secondary education.

Key Drivers Moving Forward & Strategic Focus

Secondary school engagement & retention: Many girls drop out of sport around puberty. The programme is shifting to ensure secondary schools are strong sites of support rather than points of loss.

Pathway connections: Strengthening links from school football to grassroots clubs, talent programmes, and local structures so girls can transition and sustain involvement.

Deepening equality in opportunity: Pushing further to reach underserved groups (SEND, disadvantaged girls, schools in more deprived areas) and reduce participation gaps.

Sustainable school capacity: Building internal capacity within schools (teachers, leaders, resources) so that girls' football is embedded, not dependent on outside partners.

Monitoring, evaluation & evidence: Demonstrating the impact of girls' football on wellbeing, leadership, confidence, academic outcomes, and using evidence to refine approaches.

Elevating role models & cultural change: Using female leaders, ambassadors, competitions, and visibility campaigns to shift perceptions about girls in football.



Girls Football – KS2

Thank you so much for joining us at the Y3+4 Girls Football Festival — it was truly wonderful to see so many girls out on the pitch, having fun and embracing the game with such enthusiasm! We hope everyone left feeling a little more positive about football and inspired to keep playing.

Apologies for dashing off towards the end — I had a secondary handball tournament to set up for a 3:20pm start. Not a complaint though — it's amazing to see so many students getting the opportunity to play and enjoy sport!

A massive thank you to **St Paul's Girls** for leading the festival so brilliantly, and an even bigger thank you to **Emma (Head of PE)** for organising the fixtures and ensuring the afternoon ran so smoothly. Your efforts made all the difference!

Hopefully you didn't get too wet towards the end — British weather never fails to surprise us! 🌧️

Thanks again for being part of such a joyful and energetic event — we look forward to seeing you at the next one!



Thank you for attending:

1. Cherry Orchard
2. Dorrington Academy
3. Grestone Academy
4. Oasis Foundry
5. St Clares Catholic School
6. St James CoE Primary Handsworth
7. St Patricks/St Edmunds Catholic School
8. The Oratory Roman Catholic School

Girls Football Updates – Tournaments

Y11 St Pauls Girls School – 1st Place

Y10 St Pauls Girls School & Holyhead School – 1st Place

Boys KS3 Handball Competition –

1. 🏆 Eden Boys
2. 🥈 Handsworth Grammar School for Boys
3. 🥉 Windsor Olympus
4. Hamstead Hall
5. St John Wall Catholic School

Up and coming events

Primary

Monday 24th November – Y6 1pm-3pm Engage and Inspire Festival

Wednesday 19th November – Y5+6; 10am-2pm at Windsor Olympus Basketball – Inspire and Engage Event

Secondary

Girls Basketball League (on going)

Boys Football League (on going)

Girls Football Tournament –

Yr7 at Holyhead – 12th November

Yr9 at Holyhead School – 24th November

Saint John Wall Catholic School
A Catholic School For All



ACTIVE
@SJW