



Vale Royal School Sport Partnership



# Relay

SUMMER 2023

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## A competitive comeback in 2022/23

2022/23 saw a massive increase in attendance at events across the Partnership. The number of schools entering doubled and the number of children taking part more than trebled – a sign that we are getting back to something like normality after a difficult few years for everyone. Participation from key groups such as those from ethnic minorities improved and for the first time we saw equality in take up of opportunities from girls and boys!

In addition to this we've seen an increase in the number of schools applying for a School Games Mark and in the number of opportunities created by schools for their pupils in intra-school competitions.

Some of the most popular events were those traditionally in the calendar such as Sportshall Athletics Key Step Gymnastics, Quicksticks Hockey and Mini-Soccer but new events such as Y3/4 Bee Netball and the Disney Inspired Shooting Stars event in National School Sport Week were hugely popular. Events such as the Boccia and New Age Kurling continue to be strongly supported as schools ensure they champion inclusive provision.

Our recent membership consultation highlighted some opportunities to improve the calendar further so watch out for new events in 2023/24!



The relatively new event categories of Celebrate, Aspire & Inspire are now fully embedded in schools with many schools adopting them for their own intra-school events. Feedback has shown the value schools have placed on these categories with the vast majority suggesting their use has increased confidence in Celebrate group, improved skills in the Aspire children and provided meaningful competition for the Inspire category. Next year we will prioritise helping parents to understand these groups, why we vary both selection and format of events and how their child to develop as an active mover!

Given we're now confident that there is an event to engage every child, let's hope that we can continue to build on these very positive results and give all children in our area the chance to represent their school in at least one of the opportunities across the year.

- DOUBLE** the number of teams taking part in events with other schools!
- DOUBLE** the number of pupils taking part in inter-school sport events!
- TREBLE** the number of young leaders supporting inter-school events!
- EQUITY** reached between boys and girls for the first time!
- TACKLING INEQUALITY** engagement of athletes from ethnic minority groups & those with SEND increased significantly



# Schools 'Pledge to Play' in new look National School Sport Week

Our NSSW delivery has changed in recent years where there's been some fantastic activities happening in schools alongside the focused Partnership celebrations.

Winsford Academy hosted a Disney inspired Shooting Stars event with a group of amazing leaders ensuring more than 60 girls took part in a fun afternoon that saw all having a great time! The girls football continued at Hartford CofE High School the following day with a competition in celebration of the upcoming Women's World Cup - another one with over 60 girls competing and displaying some skills to be proud of!

We saw the relaunch of both Northwich and Winsford Town Sports this year. Both events were designed to look like more traditional athletics and we also saw children trying something for the first time in shot put. Schools entering either event brought upwards of 40 children each who ran, jumped or threw their way to contribute to their team's total score – well done to Winsford High Street Primary School and Hartford Primary School on winning these events. We hope to see more schools engage in 2023/24 as they grow from strength to strength!



Our traditional end to NSSW has always been at Northwich RUFC for the Y3/4 & Y5/6 tag rugby. We had superb support with leaders from Weaverham High School officiating and also Northwich coaches and volunteers supporting with some skills sessions in between games. There were nearly 150 children involved across the day where we saw a huge increase in confidence from game to game.



## Winsford Cluster Update



What a year for Winsford!

The weather has certainly been kind to us this summer too!

This half term I held a celebration at The Academy for the PhysKids Play Leaders, who committed their time to improve activity levels in their schools. Students took part in tennis, dodgeball and orienteering. I especially enjoyed the Shooting Stars festival this half term and the positive engagement and the link to Disney! Winsford Academy Sports Leaders especially enjoyed this one too! We then invited schools to take part in the Winsford Town Sports and that equally had a fantastic buzz where students competed in a series of track/field events. Lastly, we had QuadKids to finish off a very successful year. I look forward to working with you all next year, but for now, have a fantastic break and a well-deserved break over the Summer.

## Vale Royal School Sport Partnership

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