

This summary outlines the findings from research undertaken by the Sport Industry Research Centre at Sheffield Hallam University for the Youth Sport Trust (YST). The research consulted with SGOs and schools regarding the School Games Mark Award criteria, process, value, impact and future direction, and generated 2,508 comments.

SAMPLE

145 SGO Online Surveys **25** SGO Interviews **59** PE Lead Online Surveys **1** Network Focus Group

THE VALUE OF THE SCHOOL GAMES MARK AWARD

The following were highlighted as the reasons SGOs and schools valued the School Games Mark Award: recognition, it provides a focus, it helps to promote PE / Active lifestyles, provides enjoyment, increases participation, highlight successes (to parents, community), good for inspection / PE report, helps to align with national standards, improves provision, develops staff, opportunity to attend competitions, offers new experiences (participation, competition, leading, managing, officiating), allows self analysis, can be embedded cross-curriculum, develops good relationships in, across and outside school

"The Award is a vital component in the delivery of PE and Sport across school. It is a way to identify schools who have participated in the year and is a great tool to show schools how they can measure their own success against other schools in their area. It is a great way to remember why we do this and who for."
SGO

"The Award has influenced many positive changes in many of my schools. The different areas of the criteria have opened the eyes of many people that it is so much more than what it was! With the new outcomes of the School Games programme, this impact is going to go a lot further."
SGO

THE IMPACT OF THE SCHOOL GAMES MARK AWARD

There is a strong sense of importance (more so in primary schools) around the award, which is used on letterheads, in reception and in assemblies. The School Games Mark can drive staff priorities, focus CPD across school and it is used to effectively target the PE and Sport Premium funding. For some schools, the last 8-10 years has seen a revolution in their approach to school sport. For young people, there are strong examples of individuals' development over time, positive lifestyle changes in some of the least active, pathways into community clubs and an abundance of enjoyment, positive experiences and achievements as a result of their school participating in School Games and the Mark Award.

"The School Games Mark is really valued. It gives us a clear indication of what is required in our school physical activity, PE and wellbeing offer. It helps us to formulate a plan that is inclusive. It challenges our thinking and helps us have clear plans, objectives, and outcomes."
Teacher

FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE MARK AWARD

It was clear that SGOs wanted to see (1) an approach that is simple (2) an approach that is consistent (3) criteria that is published early and (4) retains a staggered level of award such as Bronze-Platinum. For schools, the prominent themes for future focus were "inclusion", "positive experiences", and "a focus on enjoyment". This was backed up by the schools network wanting the same for the future iterations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

PROCESS

- ✓ Criteria released early (September)
- ✓ Clear on 'what good looks like' for outcomes
- ✓ Retain SGO verification for quality control

CRITERIA

- ✓ Tiered approach (Bronze-Silver-Gold) still popular
- ✓ Needs to be consistent across the years post Covid
- ✓ Balance of participation, competition, inclusion

NETWORK

- ✓ Secondary level needs attention
- ✓ Raise profile (for SLT or via OFSTED)
- ✓ Retain SGO verification and ability to regrade