



Irish Primary PE Association

Cumann Corpoideachais Bunscoile na hÉireann

Name and Contact Details of Respondent: **Susan Marron and Liam Clohessy on behalf of the Irish Primary Physical Education Association (IPPEA)** <https://www.irishprimarype.com/>

The Irish Primary PE Association was founded in 2002 by and for primary teachers who were particularly interested in the subject of physical education. The IPPEA is an association dedicated to heightening awareness of PE issues in primary schools and it aims to promote physical activity in an educational context.

The IPPEA are submitting comments with a focus on children in and out of school and from the perspective of Physical Education and extracurricular activities in the school grounds or using community facilities for these school activities. The IPPEA are concerned with the holistic development of the child. See comments in italic.

Questions

1. With reference to either the national or your organisation/communities perspective, what do you perceive as the three main sports development:

challenges? *Developing meaningful practices where coaches work alongside the class teacher during 'some' Physical Education lessons as a form of support and sharing of knowledge in keeping with 'the Role of the External Provider in Primary School Physical Education'*

http://www.irishprimarype.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/RoleExternalProvider_Jan2011.pdf

This document was developed and written by generalist primary class teachers, teacher educators, PDST PE advisors and the IPPEA committee.

opportunities? *Developing after school extracurricular activities/sport for children (school based)*

3. Given the functions of Sport Ireland outlined earlier, what strategic position and approach would you welcome from Sport Ireland with respect to these challenges and opportunities?

Meet with school personnel to design and plan programmes of work with the class teacher. The class teacher and the coach must work together side by side to contribute towards the physical education (PE) learning and holistic well-being of each child.

For extracurricular school activities, negotiate the use of school facilities after school in relation to opening hours, insurance etc

4. What do you understand are the strategic opportunities and challenges for the sector wide development of sport, Participation, Performance/Competition and High Performance in Ireland?

In relation to young children, participation and skill development should be the focus. Children should receive a broad and balanced experience of a variety of sports and activities and not a domination of a particular sport; Young children should have programmes focussed on the development of fundamental movement skills through fun and non-competitive activities; older children 8-12 years should experience modified games experiences rather than formal external competitions.

5. Sport Ireland is significantly supported in realising its participation function by the Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs). Based on your experience or awareness of these Partnerships:

What additional partnership and collaboration opportunities are there for these LSPs to further develop local sports participation?

Increase contact with primary Physical Education Association (IPPEA); Increase contact with schools offering after school activities; Link with Teacher Education Universities

What does you perceive as being the primary impact and future role of the Local Sports Partnerships?

Delivering After school extracurricular activities...to promote skill development and contribute towards children's daily physical activity accumulations (Get Ireland Active)

6. How best might Sport Ireland at a national level:

Support the integrated development of sport?

Support the National Governing Bodies of Sport?

Support minor sports in schools (orienteering, gymnastics, payment for swimming lessons and transports; currently assistance offered is games heavy

Support community led sport?

Family sports events;

Assist in the growth and empowerment of volunteers in sport?

Link with parents to assist the coaches at Extracurricular school activities/sport

Support commercial sport provision?

Nurture additional collaboration between sport organisations, communities etc?

Monitor the potential of commercial/professional sports coaches?

...Particularly in schools as an alternative to PE

Sport Ireland Draft Strategic Position

Encourage private sector investment in sport?

7. With reference to Sport Ireland's 'Business Units', illustrated on page 4, in which Units and support services might Sport Ireland develop additional capabilities?

8. How might the National Sports Campus further support the aspirations of sport organisations or individual athletes?

Offer free entry to families similar to the Indoor athletics event in January 2017.

9. Additional Observations and Comments.

We believe that the following research should be considered when schools work with coaches

Bowles, Richard G (2014). From policy to practice: a sociological study of Gaelic games in Irish primary schools; URI: <http://hdl.handle.net/10344/4252>. Doctoral Thesis

Note: All submissions received will be subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2014.