Department for Culture Media & Sport

School Games Indicator 2015/16

Statistical Release

September 2016

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Introduction

This Report
This statistical release looks at schools participating in the School Games, the number of students at these schools as well as the public sector finances allocated to the School Games.

Following on from the consultation exercise run last year, we have taken on the recommendations that this publication will no longer include the public sector cost per eligible student estimate. The School Games Indicator is no longer a DCMS Departmental Indicator and therefore DCMS will be consulting during the year on whether this release should continue and if not, how best to meet our users' needs. If you would like to be alerted when this consultation come out please contact us at evidence@culture.gov.uk by 31st October 2016. We will also email all individuals on our DCMS statistics email distribution list (sign up here). We plan to announce our decision on the consultation by end of April 2017.

School Games
The School Games were established in 2011 and are a competition over four levels for school children aged 7 to under 19. The School Games are designed to build on the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and enable every school and child to participate in competitive sport, including opportunities for disabled young people. The four levels are:

- Level 1 – sporting competition for all students through intra-school competition.
- Level 2 – individuals and teams are selected to represent their schools in local inter-school competitions.
- Level 3 – the county/area will stage multi-sport School Games festivals as a culmination of year-round school sport competition.
- Level 4 – the School Games finals: a national multi-sport event where the most talented young people in the UK are selected to compete.

Levels 1 to 3 are open to all schools in England, whilst level 4 is a UK wide event. The School Games 2016 National Finals (Level 4) took place at Loughborough University at the beginning of September. There were 1,600 athletes competing in 12 Olympic and Paralympic Sports, with 700 volunteers, including coaches, support staff and volunteers, involved.

Nationally and locally the School Games are being delivered through partnerships. The national partnership is made up of:

- The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) who have overall policy leadership supported by the Department for Education (DfE) and the Department of Health (DH).
- Sport England who are the Lottery distributor and are supporting the engagement of National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) and County Sports Partnerships.
- The British Paralympic Association brings the vision and inspiration of the Paralympics and supports the role of the games in providing disability sport opportunities across the country.

- The Youth Sport Trust who were commissioned by Sport England to provide development support to schools, sports and other local partners.

The Government's new strategy for an active nation 'Sporting Future' published in December 2015 recognised the contribution that the School Games has already made but signalled that the time was right to review the future priorities of the Games. The review was led by Sport England and the Youth Sport Trust. Further detail can be found here.

School Games alumni[1]

The success of the School Games programme has recently been seen in the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Across the two games, 112 alumni completed, with 42 per cent of them winning a medal, across 10 different sporting events.

In the Olympic Games, 59 School Games alumni represented Team GB. This means 15.5 per cent of Team GB were School Games alumni. 15 medals were won by 17 School Games alumni (6 Gold, 2 Silver and 7 Bronze) in 5 sports (Athletics, Cycling, Gymnastics, Hockey, and Swimming).

In the Paralympic Games, 53 School Games alumni represented Paralympics GB. This means 20.1 per cent of Paralympics GB were School Games alumni. 50 medals were won by 30 School Games alumni (22 Gold, 12 Silver and 16 Bronze) in 8 sports (athletics, cycling, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair fencing, table tennis and owing and Triathlon through talent transfer).

Forthcoming Releases

The next release, scheduled for September 2017, will present the annual estimates for 2016/17.

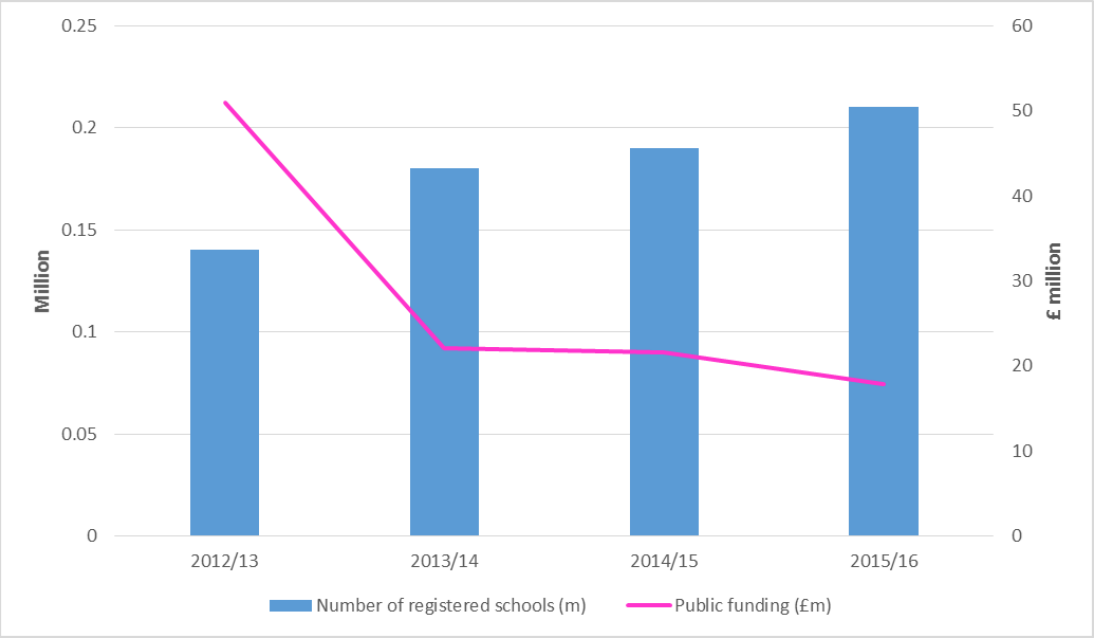
[1] Data provided by the Youth Sport Trust

The School Games – 2015/16

Key Findings

- In the year to August 31st 2016, 21,218 schools had participated in the School Games[2], an 8.7 per cent increase on 2014/15.
- These schools covered 9.0 million students who were therefore eligible to participate, up 7.6 per cent from a year earlier.
- In 2015/16, £17.9 million of public funding was allocated to the School Games, a decrease of 17.1 per cent compared with the previous year.
- The number of schools registered for the School Games has increased by 7.6 and 8.7 per cent respectively from 2014/15 to 2015/16, whilst public funding has decreased by 17.1 per cent over the same time period. Figure 1 shows the breakdown for each year since 2012/13 (2011/12 data have been omitted on the chart due to the figures not being consistent with future years. See Table 3 notes for more information).

Figure 1: Number of registered schools and public funding allocated to the School Games: 2012/13 – 2015/16



Full explanation and commentary

Participation

Participation in the School Games cannot be directly measured at a student level – only the number of schools which had participated can be estimated from those that have registered. However, the School Games are designed so schools can provide opportunities to all their students. Therefore a reasonable proxy for the level of

[2] Defined as schools registered on the latest database and not ruled out from participating due to closure; see Participating Schools section and Annex A for more detail.

student participation is to include all eligible students at participating schools. This is the approach taken in this release.

Participating Schools
The School Games launched to all schools in England in the 2011/12 academic year and have continued in 2015/16.

For the purposes of this release, participating schools are defined as those registered on the School Games database[3] by the 31st August 2016. As schools do not need to re-register to participate in the School Games in the years following their initial registration, this includes schools who registered for the School Games since 2011/12. However, while schools remain eligible to participate in the School Games after their initial registration, some schools may close or re-open in a new form, for example as an academy, or be amalgamated into other schools.

In order to avoid counting schools that were no longer open, schools that closed before September 2015 (i.e. those which were not open at any point during the 2015/16 academic year) have not been counted as participating. Additionally, the predecessors of schools that had re-opened as academies, or had been amalgamated into other schools and re-registered for the School Games in their new form have been excluded to avoid double-counting their students. Annex A provides a schematic overview of the decision for the inclusion and exclusion of schools.

In the year to August 2016, 21,218 schools had registered for the School Games and therefore counted as participating on the basis of this methodology. There were 121 schools that had registered for the School Games but closed during the school year, but only one which had a successor school registered as well, therefore only one school was omitted in the analysis of schools participating in the School Games. Other schools may be listed on the database as the School Games database includes schools which have signed up after the end of the 2015/16 school year.

Eligible Students at Participating Schools
EduBase[4] is a database of educational establishments across England and Wales maintained by the Department for Education (DfE). Where available, EduBase records the number of pupils registered at establishments from the School Census. It also records the capacity of educational establishments.

To obtain the number of eligible students, schools which had participated in the School Games were matched to data on student numbers from EduBase. In line with the methodology described in the 'Participating Schools' section of this release, schools that closed before September 2015 were not included in the analysis.

In 574 cases, the number of students was not available or was zero in the Edubase data. School capacity was used as a proxy in 311 cases. This is a reasonable approximation as the median occupancy of school places where data are available is 104%. Additional data from "Local Authority Tables by Provider by Funding Stream, Learner and Learning Characteristics"[5] gave student numbers for 227 further education establishments, such as sixth form colleges, taking just those students aged below 19. Additional data from Ofsted reports provided student numbers for 15 establishments. This left a remainder of 21 schools reporting zero students in the final data set. These have been included in the number of schools but with a value of

[3] Data provided by the Youth Sport Trust.
[4] EduBase
[5] Further Education Data Library Local Authority Tables

zero for the number of students. Table 1 summarises which data sources were used and for how many schools.

Table 1: Data source used to obtain the number of students at schools signed up for the School Games as of August 31st 2016

Data Source	Number of Schools	Number of Students[b]
EduBase School Census	20,644	7,850,000
EduBase School Capacity	311	117,000
FE and Skills Participation	227	1,028,000
Ofsted Report	15	1,000
None[a]	21	0
Total	**21,218**	**8,996,133**

Notes:
a Number of students data not available
b Rounded to the nearest thousand

Public Sector Cost

Public sector funding for the School Games has come from the Lottery through Sport England (SE); and from the Exchequer through Sport England, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), the Department for Education (DfE) and the Department for Health (DH). In previous editions, the Talented Athlete Exchange Programme was omitted from the calculations, therefore this funding has been added retrospectively for previous years in this release. In the 2015/16 financial year £17.9 million of public sector funding was allocated to the School Games, with a full breakdown of the funding given in Table 2 below.

Table 2: School Games funding by year and source

Funding Line	Source	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17P
Sport England Lottery Levels 1-4	Lottery	£1.2m	£7.8m	£6.2m	£10m	£10m	£6.1m	£6.8m
School Games Organisers:								
DH		-[b]	£2.5m	£7.0m	£7.0m	£7.0m	£7.0m	£7.0m
Sport England/DCMS	Exchequer	-	£4.0m	£4.0m	£4.0m	£4.0m	£4.0m	£4.0m
DfE PE Teacher Release[a]	Exchequer	-	£32.5m	£32.5m	-	-	-	-
DfE Disability/ Volunteer	Exchequer	-	£4.0m	£1.3m	£0.95m	£0.49m	£0.69m	£0.69m
Talented Athlete Exchange Programme[c]	Exchequer	-	-	£0.02m	£0.1m	£0.07m	£0.09m	-
Total	**Lottery & Exchequer**	**£1.2m**	**£50.8m**	**£51.0m**	**£22.1m**	**£21.6m**	**£17.9m**	**£18.5m**

Notes:
a While this funding is not specifically for School Games, it supports delivery of the programme
b Indicates no funding
c The Talented Athlete Exchange Programme has been omitted from previous editions, and therefore the funding has been added retrospectively.
P Indicates provisional figures

Level 4 of the School Games, the national competition, is not school-based. The National Governing Bodies of Sport select participants for the one off event. However, the cost is included as the measure presented in this release considers the total School Games package.

Changes over time

The number of eligible students and number of schools registered for the School Games has increased by 7.6 and 8.7 per cent respectively from 2014/15 to 2015/16, whilst public funding has decreased by 17.1 per cent over the same time period. Table 3 shows the breakdown for each year since 2011/12.

Table 3: Number of eligible students, registered schools and public funding for the School Games, 2011/12 – 2015/16

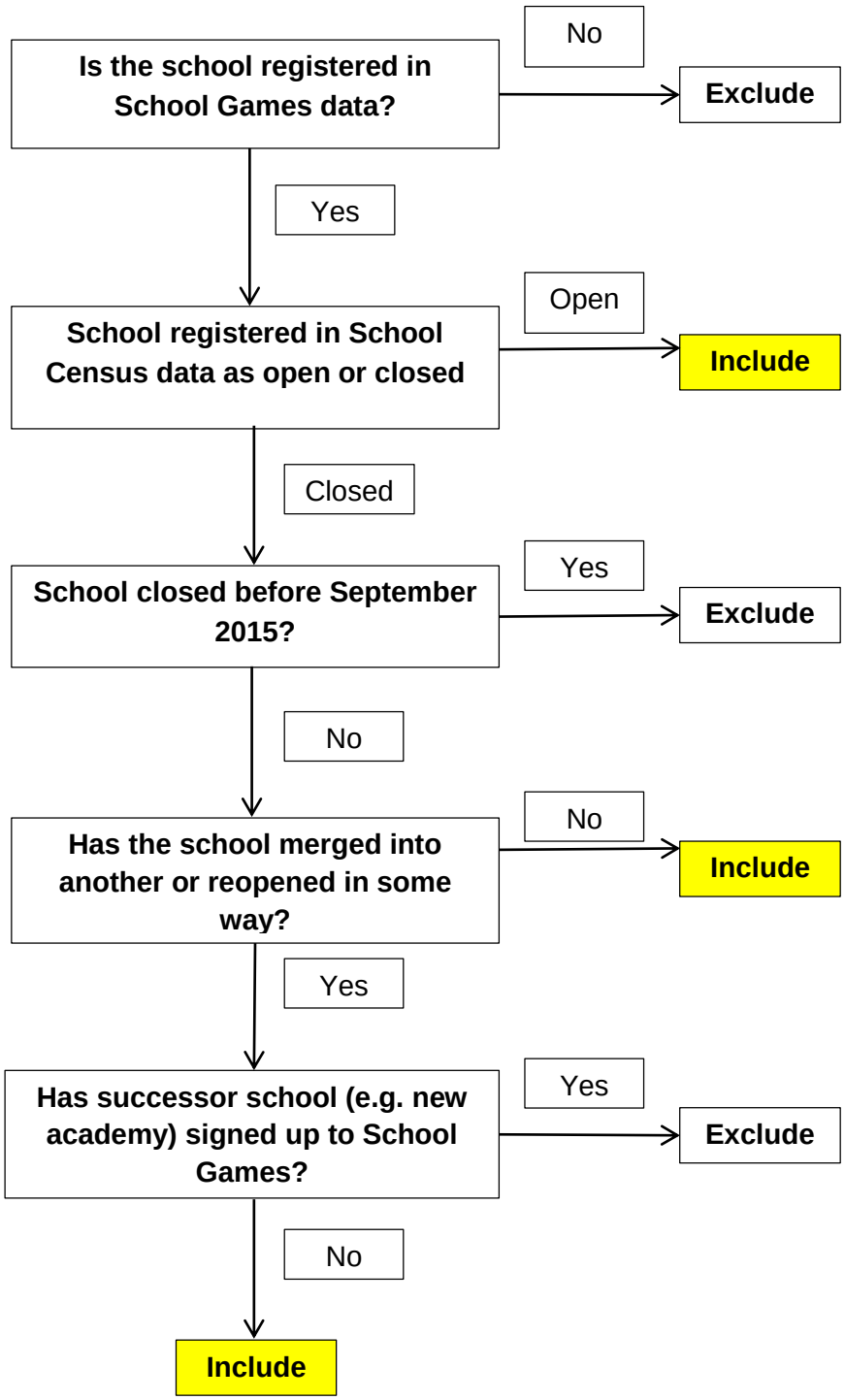
	Number of registered schools (m)	Number of eligible students (m)	Public funding (£m)
2011/12	0.08	3.85	50.8
2012/13	0.14	5.41	51.0
2013/14	0.18	7.09	22.1[a]
2014/15	0.19	8.36	21.6
2015/16	0.21	9.00	17.9

Notes:
a Decrease is largely due to the end of the two year DfE PE Teacher Release funding

To note: the figures in this and the previous years' releases are not directly comparable to those of 2011/12. The differences are outlined below:

- Schools that had initially signed up for the School Games prior to January 2012 were required to re-register on a new database to activate their account. The 2011/12 figures therefore related to the number of schools that had signed up between January and August 2012. It may be that some schools had signed up on the initial database, but not re-registered on the new database and would therefore not be counted in the 2011/12 indicator despite their participation.
- For the 2012/13 indicator the methodology was developed to exclude schools which had closed since September 2012 if a new manifestation or amalgamation of the same school had signed up to the School Games. Only 8 schools were excluded for this reason in 2012/13. Since 2013/14, no such schools were signed up to School Games.
- 2013/14 figures relate to the number of schools that had signed up since January 2012 and up until 31st July 2014 but with schools which had closed prior to September 2013 removed. No schools were removed in the 2011/12 indicator as they all would have been open at some point in the time period in question.

Annex A: Decision Tree for School Inclusion/Exclusion



Annex B: Background Note

1. School Games is an Official Statistics publication and as such has been produced to the professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Official Statistics are produced to ensure they meet customer needs and are produced free from political interference. For more information, see http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/code-of-practice-for-official-statistics.pdf

2. This report has been produced by Penny Allen. Acknowledgement goes to colleagues within DCMS, Sport England and Department for Education for their assistance with the production and quality assurance of this release.

3. The responsible statistician for this release is **Penny Allen**. For enquiries on this release, please contact Penny Allen on 0207 211 2380 or email evidence@culture.gov.uk.

4. Next Release: The next release, scheduled for September 2017, will present the annual estimates for 2016/17.

5. For general enquiries telephone: 0207 211 6200
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