

# Opening School Facilities – Phase 3

*Opening school facilities outside of the normal school day to school and community users, to create sustainable change in increased physical activity levels.*



# Phase 2 case studies

The below case studies from three schools that received funding during phase 2 of Opening School Facilities give an outline of the specific projects undertaken in those areas and outlines the impact the funding had.

You can also find a series of recommendations in each case study for you to take forward when investigating how best to open your own school facilities during phase 3.



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# **Connecting our School to our Community**

***Alexandra Park School, Haringey***

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# The Project

Alexandra Park School is in the borough of Haringey, and is situated near Alexandra Park.

The Opening School Facilities project was focused on re-building community activity happening on the site, after covid-19.

- The school aimed to get people back onsite after covid-19. Immediately after the majority of restrictions were lifted, there was nothing running onsite - so there was a need to rebuild engagement.
- The school wanted to make it easier to connect pupils to local clubs - and this could be done if they took place at the school. It meant that young people could avoid travel issues, and parents would know that they were in a safe space.
- There was also a focus on developing better relationships with local community clubs themselves, and understanding how to best work together and support their needs.

The funding was used to open the site for community groups access at the weekends and evenings: purchasing equipment to facilitate these clubs, and some kick-starter staff funding.





## What impact has this project had?

- ❑ **OUR COMMUNITY** - The local community are back onsite and using the facilities regularly, and the school has become a 'hub' for several other schools in the area.
- ❑ **A SAFE SPACE** - We have developed a 'Girls Night' which has been a huge success. It is making it easier for girls to engage in activity without fear of been judged. (We did a survey and 2% of girls said they would play sport if others were watching)
- ❑ **FLEXIBILITY** - We have adapted our original lettings model to allow for different types of delivery. For example - a yoga instructor is hiring the space for both in-person and online events. This strengthens and broadens who can access our spaces.
- ❑ **BUILDING LOCAL NETWORKS** - Teachers from other schools have come together to form a group who play different sports after school, onsite. As well as been active, it gives the teachers an opportunity to network.
- ❑ **ENJOYMENT FOR ALL** - We host specific sessions every week for pupils with SEND, taught by specialist teachers, who now have access to the correct equipment. Carers can also have a break when at the session.
- ❑ **COST EFFECTIVE** - It is more efficient for our school to run the service ourselves, rather than outsourcing the facilities to a provider.



# What are your top recommendations for other schools?

- 1. Look to open your facilities as soon as possible after the school day ends.**
  - Think about how you can run other clubs to allow this to happen, by making the most of morning slots.
  - This makes it easier for community groups to schedule and also makes it easier for students to transition from school to sports clubs, and avoid travelling.
- 2. Have a live booking system ready to go.**
  - This ensures no double bookings and makes it more efficient to link the bookings to things like online marketing campaigns.
- 3. Think about how to utilise your network of local schools, and how they can support you.**
  - Integrating other schools into the offer can help to create a network that increases the number of activities and opportunities for people to be active in your local area.



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# Tackling Youth Isolation

*Telferscot Primary School, Lambeth*

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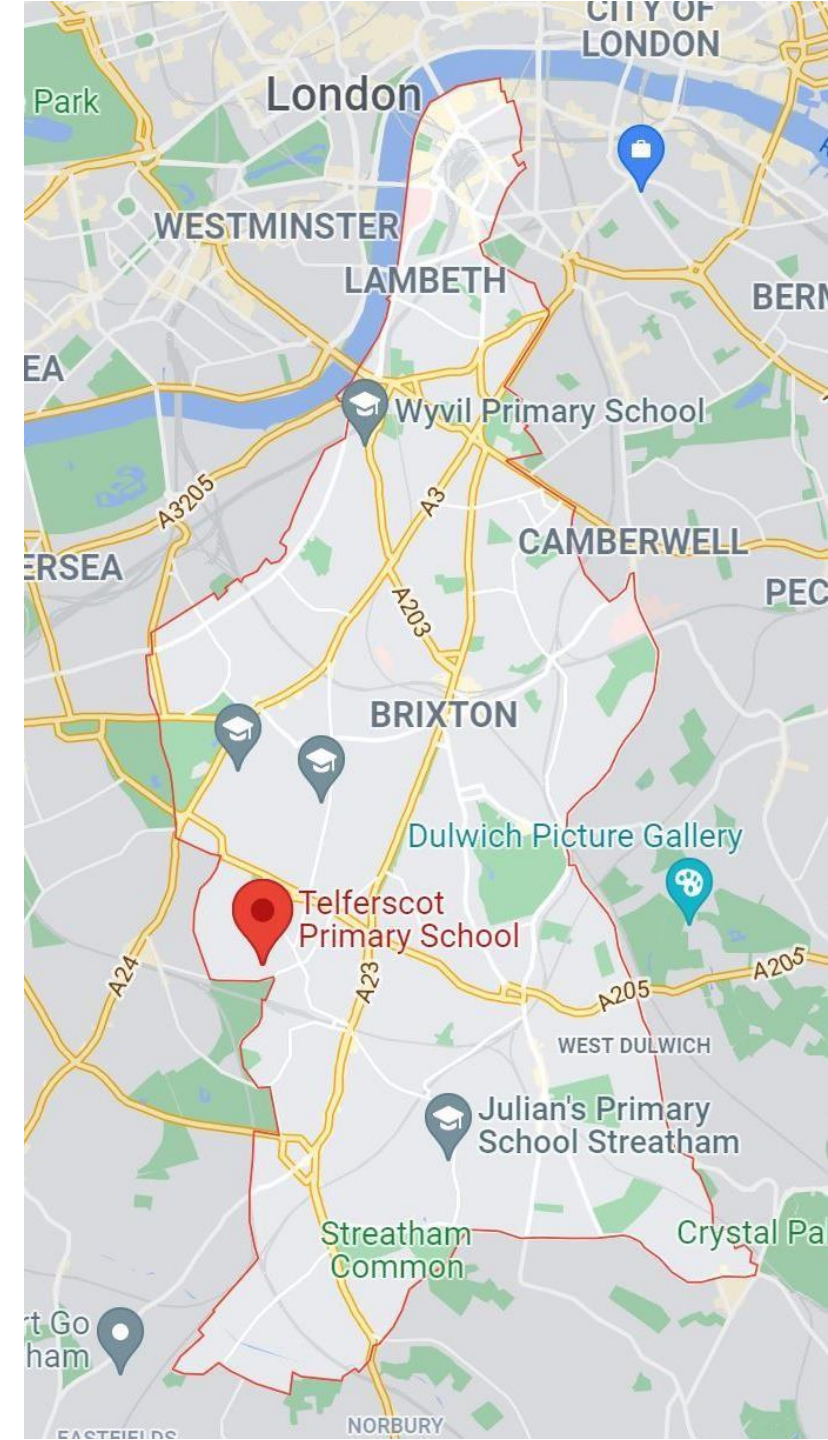
# The Project

The Opening School Facilities project wanted to tackle the isolation that can happen when pupils move from primary to secondary school, by providing young people with a safe space to socialise and be active in, within a familiar environment.

The primary school is a space that parents are comfortable sending their children in the evening, especially now it is dark, as it is known and trusted. All of the sessions are able to be provided free of charge.

Their efforts started as a youth club for any local year 7s, 8s and 9s, that has since developed into two different activity sessions with the help of the OSF funding:

1. **Basketball Drop-in** - An informal session, led by a qualified coach (also a parent and trusted member of the school community), and is open for all. It offers a safe space for any local young person to talk and play, from 6:00pm.
2. **Jiu-jitsu Club** - A targeted session, led by Streatham-based Inspirational Youth, which invites vulnerable, pupil-premium/low-income and SEND pupils (both those who attend the school, and external, isolated year 7s).

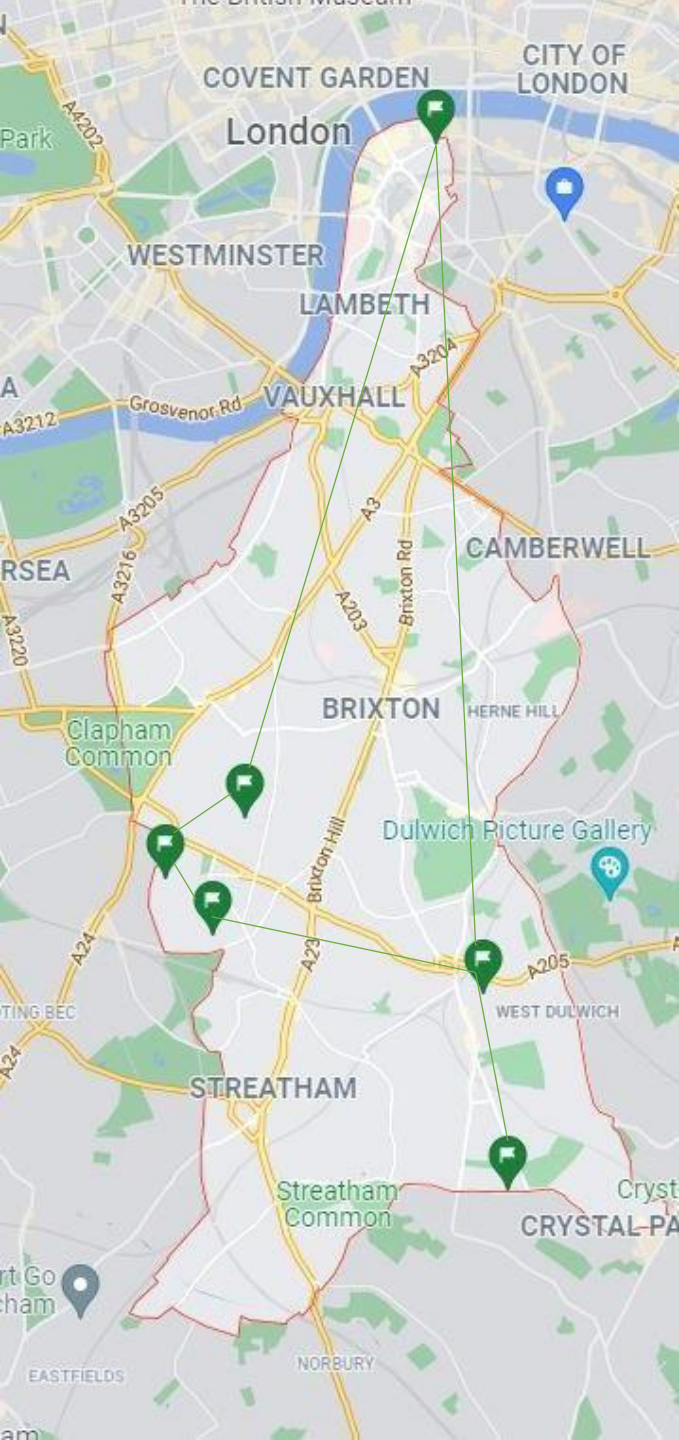




# What impact has this project had?

- ❑ **TACKLES THE ISSUE** - It has helped to prevent young people loitering in the streets/dark parks. Physical activity has given them an activity to do and a safe place to be with their friends.
- ❑ **SAFE SPACE** - Parents know Telferscot Primary School as a trusted and safe space for their children to come. It is fast becoming known as a community 'hub' locally.
- ❑ **INCREASES DEMAND** - There is new demand for opening up the school spaces after 6pm, which wasn't there before this project.
- ❑ **BUILDS LOCAL NETWORKS** - Our local secondary schools, and our relationships with them, are helping us to successfully promote these clubs to the wider community.
- ❑ **ENJOYMENT** - The young people love it and want the activities to keep running through the school holidays!
- ❑ **LOW COST** - Funding via London Sport enables the creation of free activities to those who need it most, especially after the impact of covid this year.





# What are your top recommendations for other schools?

**1. Create a network of schools within your local area (left), that also deliver out-of-hours activity for young people.**

- We have been able to sign-post to other options that we can't facilitate, and visa versa.

**2. Having a good organisation running the sessions is essential!**

- Inspirational Youth are local, professional and make the sessions engaging for the usually inactive students attending.

**3. Word of mouth - that the sessions are good, fun, safe etc. - helps us to get great numbers attending both sessions, every week!**

- Encourage the young people to tell their friends!



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# **Re-engaging with young people, post-covid**

***Park Walk Primary, Kensington & Chelsea***

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# The Project

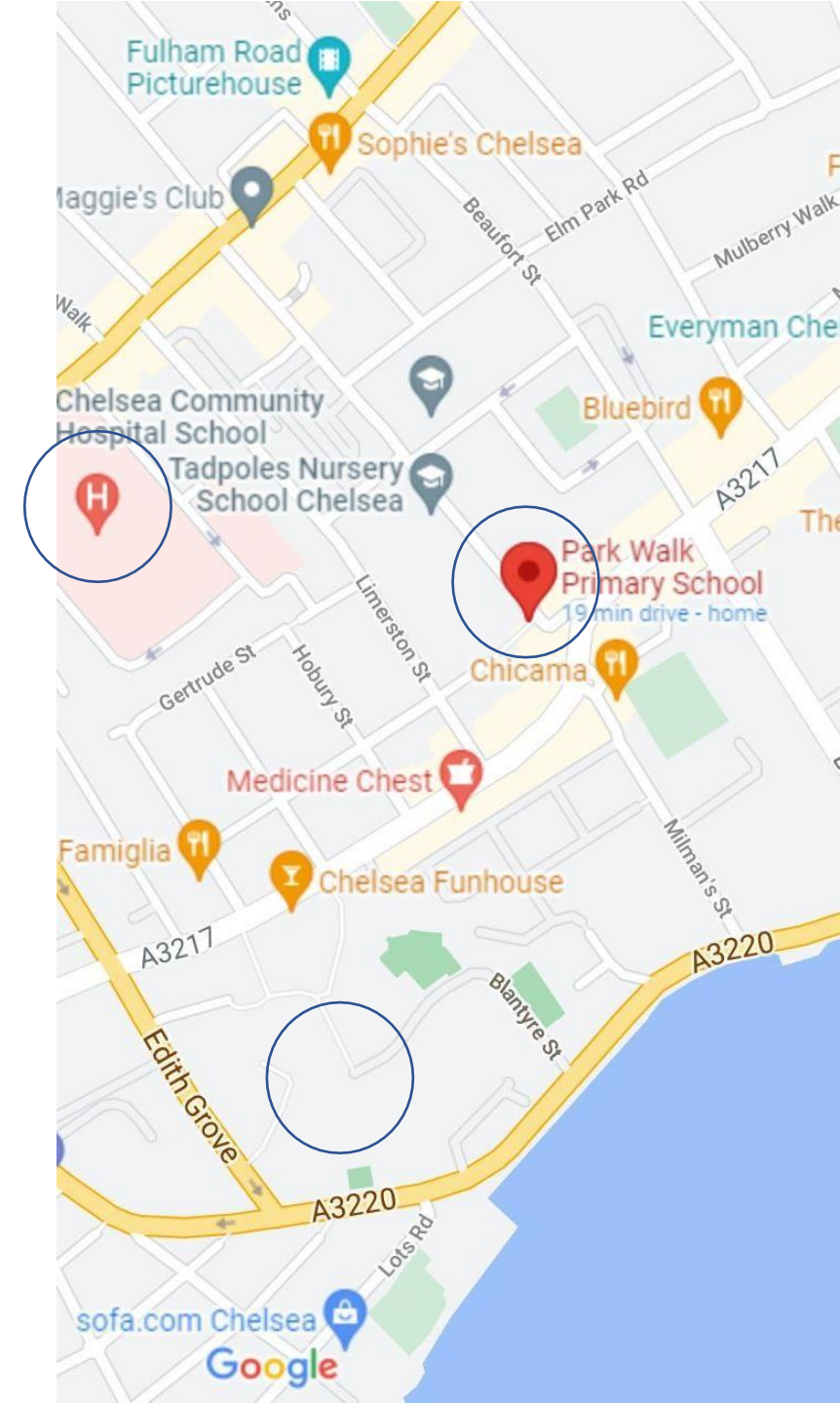
Park Walk is a centrally-located primary school, operating within a mixed catchment area - with children from the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital workers and the surrounding local estates (i.e. Worlds End).

The Opening School Facilities project was focused on re-engaging young people in evening activities - after covid-19 rules meant that most had not been involved with such groups for over a year.

It involved a series of multi-sports sessions run by an external coach throughout the school year. Sessions were specifically offered for free to vulnerable young people, acting as an option to re-socialise and engage with school activities in a familiar and covid-safe environment.

## Aims of the project:

- To drive interest and re-ignite pupil's engagement towards taking part in activities, which was much harder after covid.
- Expand their programme of activities on offer through purchasing new equipment.
- To re-open the same spaces, but for different and more uses.
- To reassure and encourage parents to let children back into activity and playing sports through purchasing covid cleaning supplies.



# What impact has this project had?

- ❑ **OPPORTUNITIES** - This funding has given us the ability to offer interesting and new activities for free, to the most vulnerable families in the school.
- ❑ **SAFE SPACE** - Parents know Park Walk Primary School as a trusted and safe space for their children to come, and offering outdoor options has helped to ease post-covid concerns.
- ❑ **CONFIDENCE** - Children have gained confidence through mixing with other pupils across year groups in a familiar and friendly environment, after a long period without normality.
- ❑ **BUILDS LOCAL NETWORKS** - Connecting with London Sport and the local authority will help to successfully promote the clubs to the wider community.
- ❑ **ENJOYMENT** - The young people love it and want the activities to keep running through the school holidays!
- ❑ **LOW COST** - The funding via London Sport enables the creation of free activities for those who need it most, especially after the impact of covid-19 this year.





# What are your top recommendations for other schools?

## 1. Be persistent with, and reassuring to, parents.

- Promote the fact that the activities are safe and fun for their children to attend. It is definitely worth spending time doing this! This was a big hurdle for us initially.

## 2. Offer a variety of activities.

- Especially those that vulnerable families might not get a chance to try outside of school - not the more traditional sports.

## 3. To new schools starting out on their facilities lettings:

- We found that advertising in the local area/community really helped to boost our profile as a facilities provider.
- Having an online presence, or bookings system, helps to increase demand!