



**LONDON
SPORT**

Connecting our School to our Community

Alexandra Park School, Haringey

London Sport's Opening School Facilities project



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.

What next?

This funding round closed in the summer of 2021.

However - if you would like to learn how you can open your school facilities to the community, or for any further support, please contact us:

schoolsaccess@londonsport.org