



**LONDON
SPORT**

Re-engaging with young people, post-covid

Park Walk Primary, Kensington & Chelsea

London Sport's Opening School Facilities project



The Project

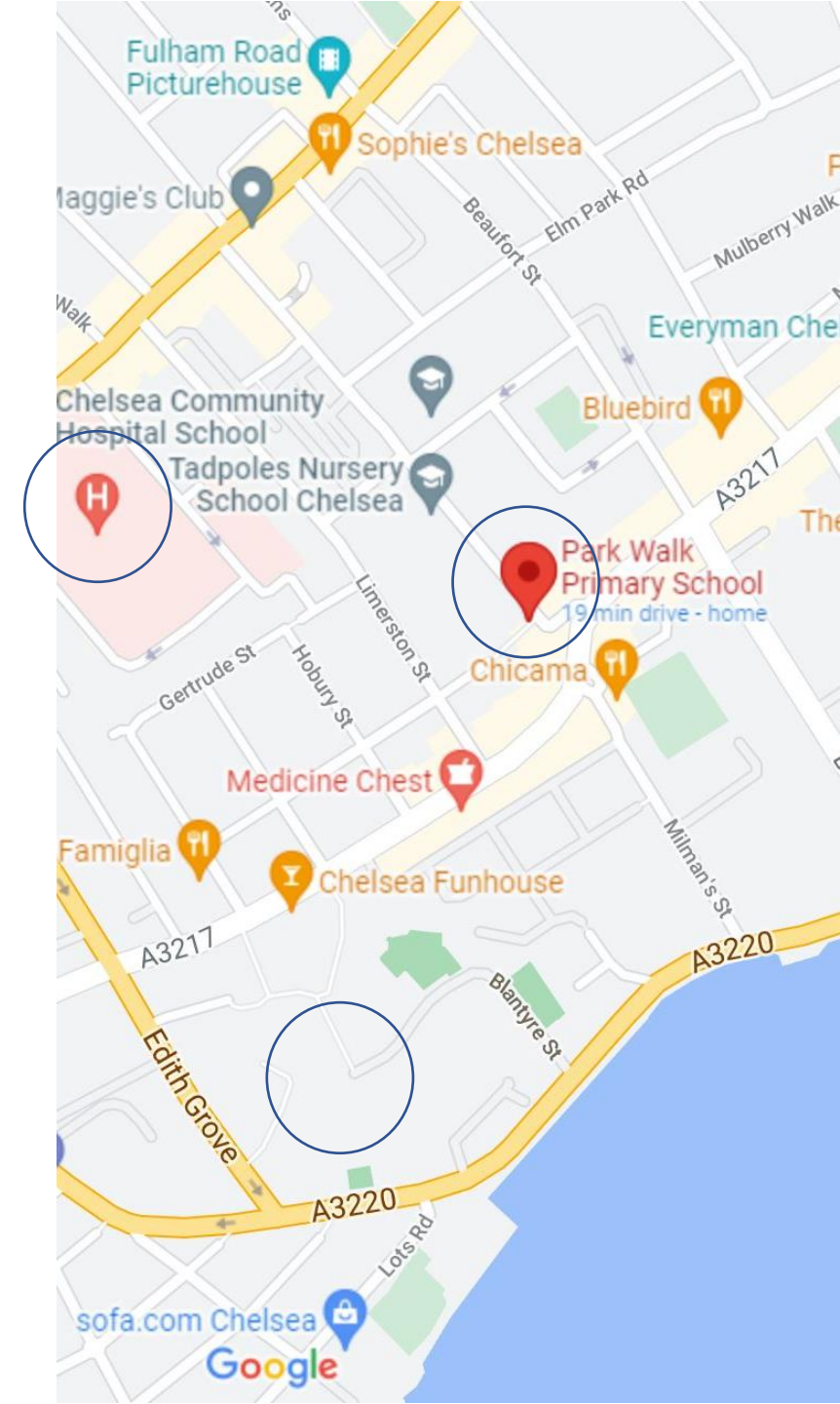
Park Walk is a centrally-located primary school, operating within a mixed catchment area - with children from the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital workers and the surrounding local estates (i.e. Worlds End).

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!

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