



department for  
**culture, media  
and sport**

# School Games 2011/12

Statistical Release

September 2012

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the quality  
of life for all

*School Games is an Official Statistic and has been produced to the standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics*

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# Introduction

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## This Report

This statistical release presents the cost per participant of the School Games. More specifically the *average public sector cost per eligible student at schools participating in the School Games* for 2011-12. The headline statistic will be used as an input indicator<sup>1</sup> to measure the performance of the Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS).

Input indicators show what is being 'bought' with public money, i.e. the resources being invested into delivering the results that DCMS and partners are aiming to achieve.

The release provides detail on the calculation and the component parts. It details the schools participating in the School Games, the students at these schools and the public sector finances allocated to the School Games.

## School Games

The School Games was established in 2011 and is a competition over four levels for school-aged children. 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 youngsters. 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 Sainsbury's School Games finals: a national multi-sport event where the most talented young people in the UK will be 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 were piloted in nine areas of England in the 2010/11 academic year. 873 schools took part in the level 1 piloting (against a target of 500) each holding a School Games Day. Across level 2, 366 schools were involved in the piloting work (against a target of 108) all running multi team/sport leagues. Nine pilot county level 3 festivals were staged where 10,000 young people (aged 5-16) took part.

Full roll out of the School Games to schools across England, as well as the first UK wide School Games final – in the Olympic Stadium – occurred in the 2011/12 academic year.

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<sup>1</sup> DCMS' input and impact indicators [http://www.culture.gov.uk/about\\_us/8192.aspx](http://www.culture.gov.uk/about_us/8192.aspx)

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

- The Department for Culture, Media and Sport who have overall policy leadership supported by the Department for Education and the Department of Health.
- Sport England who are the Lottery distributor and are supporting the engagement of sports governing bodies and county sports partnerships.
- The British Paralympic Association bring the vision and inspiration of the Paralympics.
- The Youth Sport Trust who were commissioned by Sport England to provide development support to schools, sports and other local partners.

## **Forthcoming Releases**

As this is an annual measure, the next release, scheduled for September 2013, will present the annual estimates for 2012/13. Any change in this measure can be explored then.

# The School Games – 2011/12

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## Key findings

- By August 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 8,341 schools, with 3.85 million eligible students, were participating<sup>2</sup> in the School Games.
- In 2011/12 there was £50.8m of public funding announced for the School Games.
- This equates to an average public sector cost of £13.20 per eligible student at schools participating in the School Games.

## Participation

Participation in the School Games is not directly measured at a student level – only the number of schools participating 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 student participation is to include all eligible students at participating schools. This is the approach we have taken in this release.

## Participating Schools

The School Games launched to all schools in England in the 2011/12 academic year. Schools were initially asked to register for School Games by the 31st January 2012. However, following this a new database was established, with schools that initially registered required to activate their accounts. Furthermore, additional schools have registered directly with the new database.

For the purposes of this statistic, we define participating schools as those registered on the new database; so those that initially registered that have activated their accounts, plus those registered with the new database since 31st January 2012. It was felt that this would give the most accurate picture of schools participating in the School Games. Therefore schools participating in the School Games which have not yet activated their accounts have not been included.

By 1st August 2012, 8,341 schools had registered for the School Games on the new database. A further 5,860 schools had registered before 31st January 2012 but are yet to activate their accounts on the new database (giving 14,201 in total).

## Eligible Students at Participating Schools

To obtain the number of eligible students, schools participating in the School Games were matched to data on student numbers. Schools were matched to Edu-Base data.

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<sup>2</sup> Defined as those schools registered on the latest database, see Participating Schools section for a more detailed discussion.

Edu-Base is a database of educational establishments across England (and Wales) maintained by the Department for Education (DfE). Where available, Edu-Base records the number of pupils registered at establishments from the School Census, it also records the capacity of educational establishments.

Of the 8,341 participating schools, the vast majority (8,245, 99%) matched with School Census data. For 52 schools without School Census data the school capacity was used as a proxy instead. Additional data from “2010/11 FE and Skills Participation breakdown by Provider”<sup>3</sup> gave student numbers for 35 further education establishments, such as sixth form colleges, taking just those students aged under 19. This left only 9 establishments, with no data on the number of students. As there are so few of these schools, no approximation was made.

Data Source	Number of Schools	Number of Students*
Edu-Base School Census	8,245	3,716,000
Edu-Base School Capacity	52	46,000
FE and Skills Participation	35	87,000
None	9	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,341</b>	<b>3,849,000</b>

Notes:

\*Rounded to the nearest thousand.

## Public Sector Cost

Public sector funding for the School Games has come from the Lottery, through Sport England; and the Exchequer, from the Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS), the Department for Education (DfE), the Department of Health (DH) and Sport England. In the 2011/12 financial year £50.8m of public sector funding was spent on the School Games, with a full breakdown of the funding already allocated given below.

Funding Line	Source	2010/ 11	2011/ 12	2012/ 13	2013/ 14	2014/ 15	2015/ 16
Sport England Lottery Levels 1-4	Lottery	£1.2m	£7.8m	£6.2m	£10m	£10m	£0m
School Games Organisers: DH*	Exchequer	-	£2.5m	£7.0m	£7.0m	£7.0m	£4.5m
Sport England/DCMS	Exchequer	-	£4.0m	£4.0m	£4.0m	£4.0m	-
DfE PE Teacher Release	Exchequer	-	£32.5m	£32.5m	-	-	-
DfE Disability Volunteer	Exchequer	-	£4.0m	£1.3m	TBA	TBA	TBA
<b>Total</b>	<b>Lottery &amp; Exchequer</b>	<b>£1.2m</b>	<b>£50.8m</b>	<b>£51.0m</b>	<b>£21.0m</b>	<b>£21.0m</b>	<b>£4.5m</b>

Notes:

- indicates no funding

TBA indicates To Be Agreed/Decision Pending

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

Games package. In 2011/12 the cost of level 4 is likely to be greater than in future years as it was held in the Olympic Stadium as a test event.

It should also be noted that there is additional funding from outside the public sector, such as sponsorship. However this is outside the scope of this measure.

## **Public Sector Cost per Eligible Students at Participating Schools**

Dividing the public sector cost by the number of eligible students at participating schools gives the final measure. It should be noted that the time periods do not match completely, with the cost in financial years and the number of students taken at the end of the academic year (up to 1<sup>st</sup> August, which is in the following financial year). However, it was not possible to adjust the cost to an academic years basis. Though this may, to some degree, counteract the lag in schools signing up or activating their accounts.

By August 1st 2012 8,341 schools, with 3.85 million eligible students, were participating<sup>4</sup> in the School Games. In 2011/12 there was £50.8m of public funding announced for the School Games. This equates to an average public sector cost of £13.20 per eligible student at schools participating in the School Games.

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<sup>4</sup> Defined as those schools registered on the latest database, see Participating Schools section for a more detailed discussion.



## Annex A: Background note

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1. School Games is an Official Statistic and as such has been produced to the high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Official Statistics undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs and are produced free from any 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 Andy Grayson, Tom Knight and Sam Tuckett. Acknowledgement goes to colleagues within DCMS, Sport England, The Youth Sport Trust, Department for Education and Department of Health for their assistance with the production and quality assurance of this release.
3. The responsible statistician for this release is Tom Knight. For enquiries on this release, please contact Tom Knight on 0207 211 6021 or Andy Grayson on 0207 211 6127.
4. Next Release: as this is an annual measure, the next release, scheduled for September 2013, will present the annual estimates for 2012/13.
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