

Your Ref:

Our Ref: MR/mr

Date: 27 January, 2014

Dear Headteacher

Re: New £18 million Primary PE Facilities Fund – Sport England

'Having the space to play sport as a child is vital in ensuring that more young people are active and that is why Sport England are investing £18 million of National Lottery funding to improve primary school sports facilities.'

A recent consultation with around 3,000 primary schools told Sport England that they have very little or no outside space which can currently be used for physical education or sport, making it difficult for such sessions to take place. This is very relevant to schools here in Norfolk and we need to ensure that headteachers are made aware of this new funding to maximise the possibility of accessing funding for facilities for PE. Sport England have just issued the following information:

The Primary School Sport Facilities fund, which will help more schools create sports spaces, will be similar to Sport England's Inspired Facilities programme. Schools are expected to receive on average £30,000 to spend on a range of specially created packages which can be tailored to meet their needs.

The Fund will help provide outdoor multi-sport areas which can be used both within the curriculum and out of school hours. As well as helping provide sports facilities, staff and volunteers at the school will receive information on how best to use the new facilities and equipment to help children get active.

Selection of schools

Whilst Sport England want to help as many schools as possible, priority will be given to those primary schools which currently have little or no outside space which can be used for P.E. or sports sessions. This applies to many schools across Norfolk who may meet all the Sport England criteria for selection once fully published.

In February 2014 Sport England will publish a simple set of selection criteria. The main points will be:

- The school must be able to show it has little or no outdoor space which can currently be used for P.E. and sports sessions, but that there is capacity for improvement. For example, a school may have a concrete playground that could be turned into a multi-sport area.*
- The school needs to demonstrate a commitment to P.E. and sport*

Between February and March 2014 schools which think they meet the criteria will be invited to submit an expression of interest via a very simple application form.

From April and June 2014 Sport England will assess the expressions of interest and select the schools which will receive funding.

By July 2014 they will have notified schools of their decisions and contractors will be ready to start work with them.

If you are interested in receiving further details when they become available in February, please send an email including your school's postal and email addresses to primaryschoolfacilities@sportengland.org.

I hope that this information will be of use to you. If you feel that your facilities could be enhanced, or are trying to improve your facilities for PE and sport then do register. Act now as February is only just around the corner.

Yours sincerely

Martin Radmore
Lead Adviser