

Primary PE and Sport Premium Research

Key findings (February 2023)

Produced by the Youth Sport Trust Research and Insight Team

Report introduction

- Schools are awaiting clarity on the future of the £320 million Primary PE and Sport Premium funding.
- Young people are likely to become more inactive and suffer poorer health as a result of critical funding delays.
- Schools, sports organisations and young campaigners are warning that millions of children may lose opportunities to play sport, learn how to swim and stay active, seeing dire consequences for their health and wellbeing, with school sport facing a looming crisis.
- This research carried out by the Youth Sport Trust among primary schools aims to highlight the potential consequences for young people of this uncertainty, with decisions set to be taken by schools at the end of this month (February) to start reducing provision.

Note: Throughout this report, the term “funding” will specifically refer to the Primary PE and Sport Premium funding.

Survey background



This report is based on a survey conducted between

18 – 30 January 2023



The survey was conducted **online** and distributed to all UK primary schools **via email**



The survey was completed by

405 primary school educators



Results are shown based on the unweighted sample of

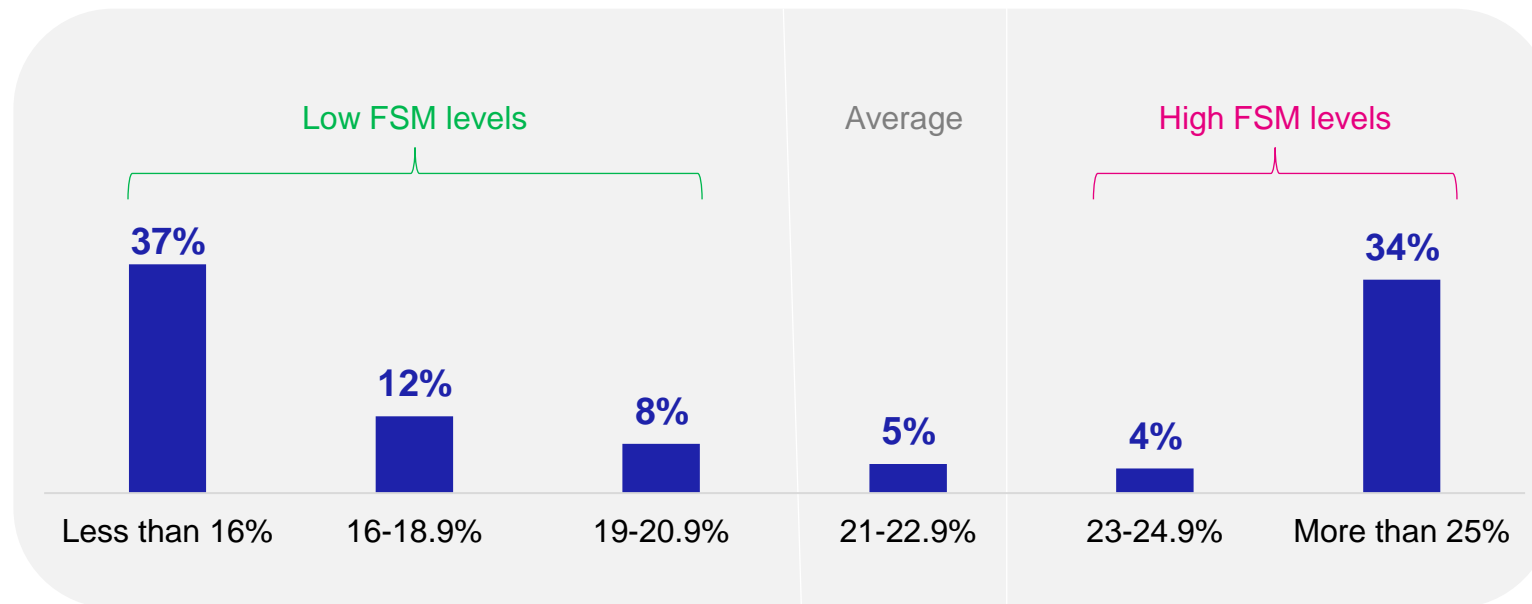
88 – 405 primary school educators

The sample size for each question is highlighted underneath the data.

Free School Meals eligibility levels

Over a third (38%) of survey respondents work in primary schools which are above the national average for Free School Meals (FSM) eligibility.

What % of children attending your school are eligible for free school meals?

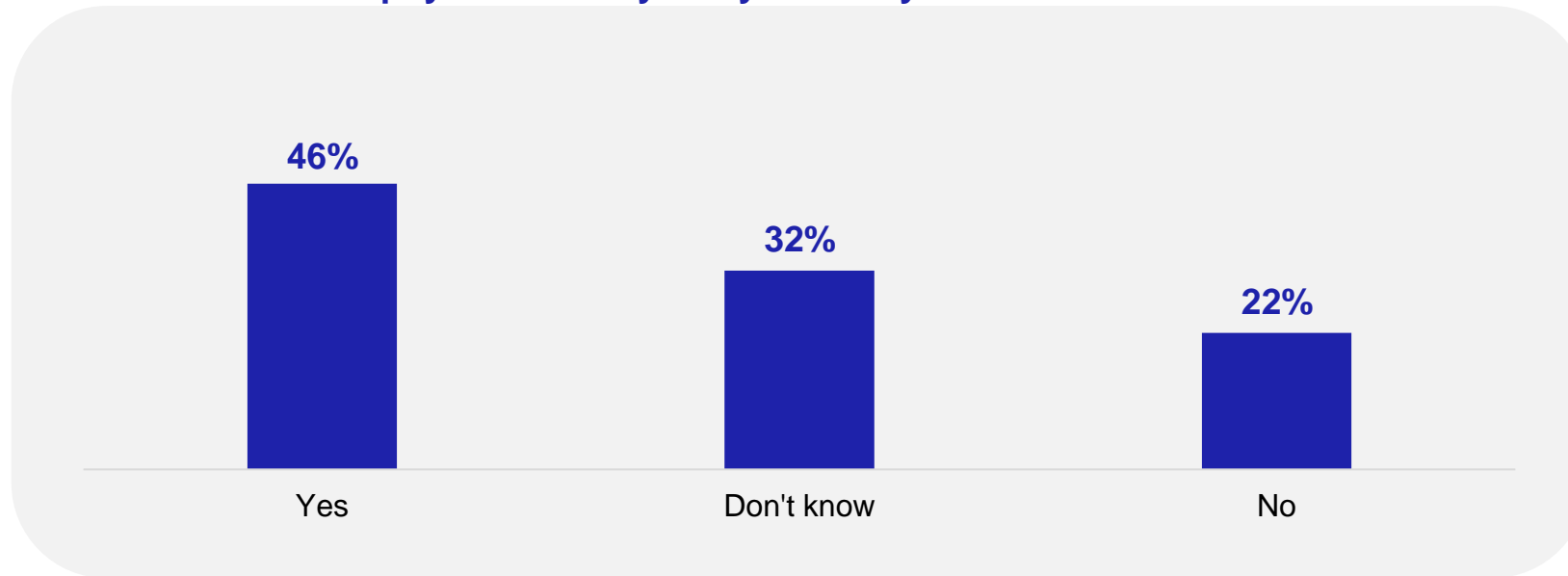


Sample: 405 respondents

Impact on 30 mins activity in school

If the funding is not renewed, less than half of survey respondents (46%) believe that they will be able to offer at least 30 minutes of physical activity a day for every child in their school, as set out in the School Sport and Activity Action plan.

If the funding is not renewed, will your school be able to offer at least 30 minutes of physical activity a day for every child in school...?

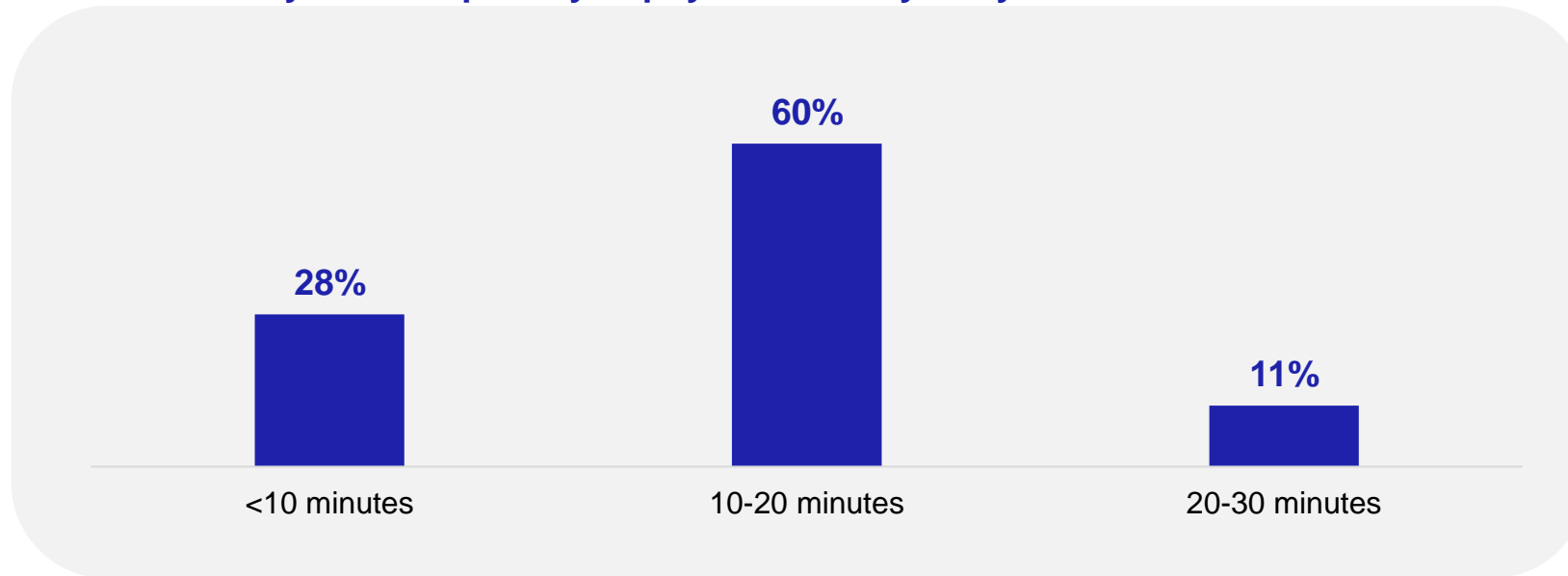


Sample: 405 respondents

Impact on 30 mins activity in school

Of those survey respondents who confirmed that their school would not be able to offer 30 minutes of physical activity, 60% felt that they would only be able to offer 10-20 minutes per day.

How many minutes per day of physical activity will your school be able to offer?

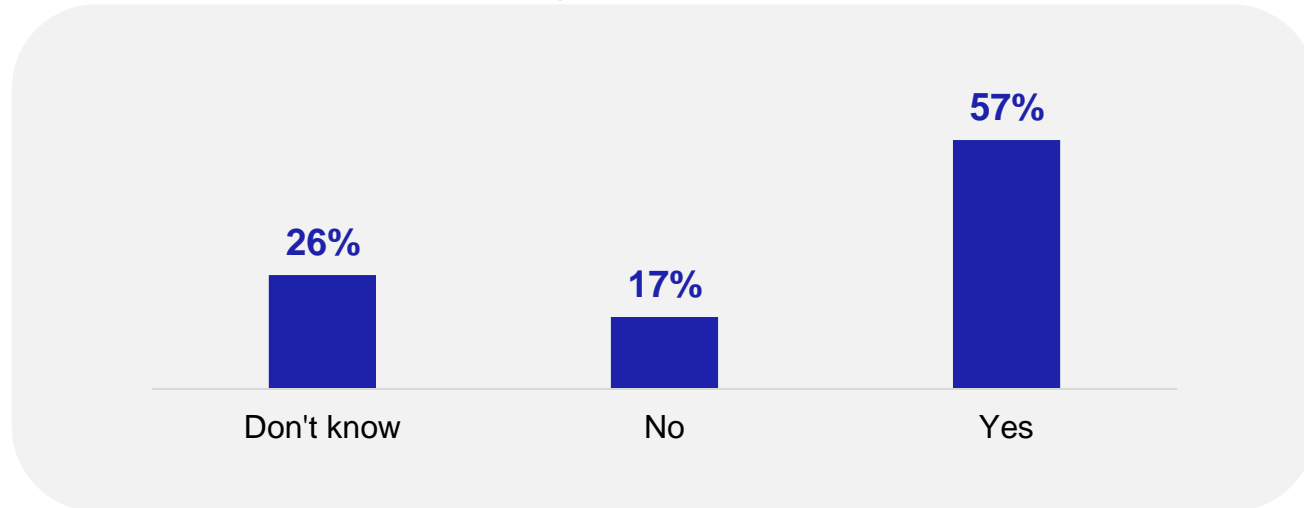


Sample: 88 respondents

Impact on staff resources

Over half (57%) will have to reduce the staff resource dedicated to delivering PE and School Sport if the funding is not confirmed by the end of February, losing an average of almost 9 hours of external support per week.

Will your school reduce the overall staff resource dedicated to delivering PE and School Sport if funding is not confirmed by the end of February?



Sample: 405 respondents

If yes...

Schools will lose on average:



roles from staff



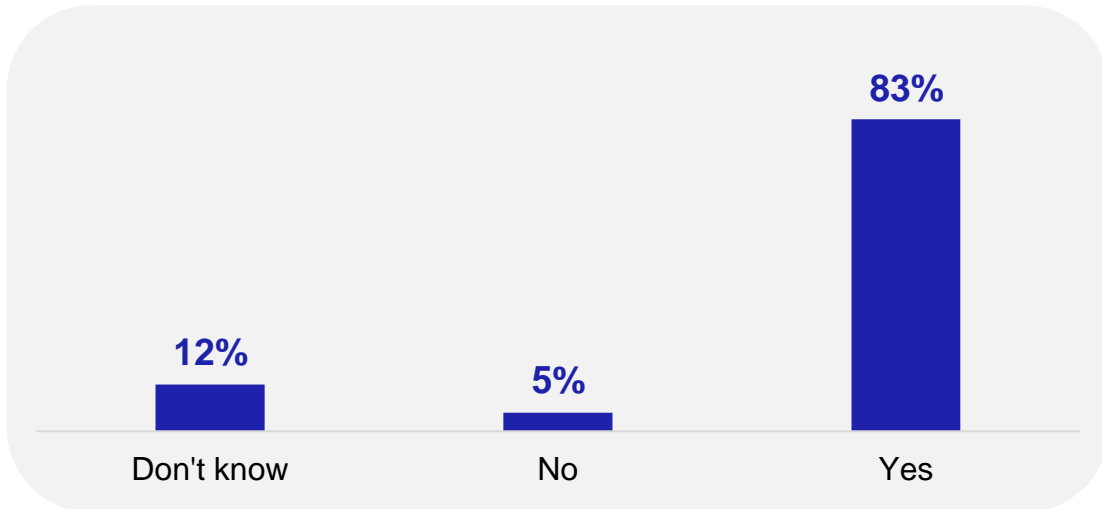
hours of external support per week

Sample: 232 respondents. Questions that were asked: If yes, how many roles will your school lose from staff? If yes, how many hours of external support will your school lose per week?

Impact on staff personal development

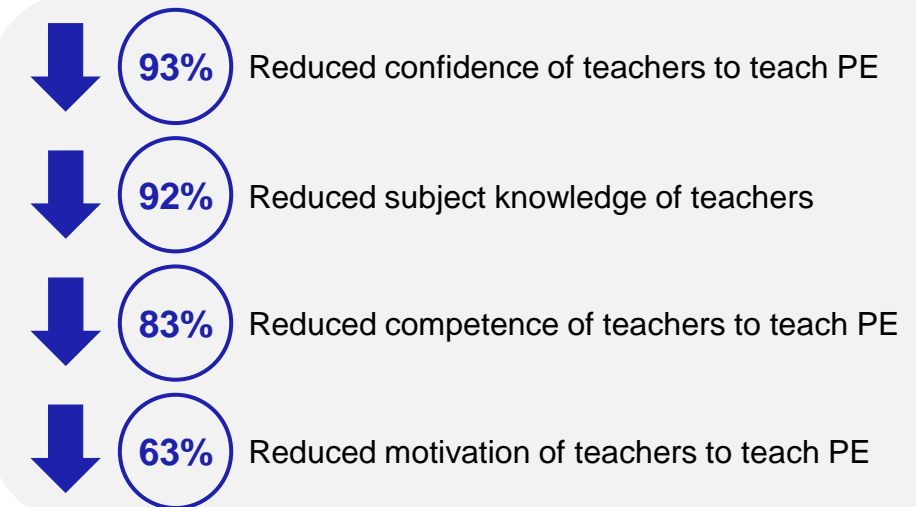
83% will have to reduce staff professional development and training opportunities if funding is not renewed, leading to reduced confidence, subject knowledge, competence and motivation of teachers to teach PE.

If the funding is not renewed, will staff professional development and training opportunities in your school reduce?



Sample: 405 respondents

If yes, what will be the impact on curriculum PE?



Sample: 335 respondents. Question that was asked: If yes, what do you think will be the impact of this on curriculum PE?

What educators said...

"Less diverse and breadth. Regression in resource quality."

"Reduced opportunity for children to participate in competitive sport."

"Children would not be able to access specialist support/provision around the extended curriculum."

"Reduction in opportunities offered to the learners."

"We have participated in a number of Blue events for those children who struggle with competition, this will be increasingly difficult without sports premium budget."

"Children will miss out as the quality of provision will not be as good."

"Children will not be able to access additional sporting competitions and events. Children will not have the opportunity to broaden their horizons in sport."

"Commitment to the coverage and delivery of after school sports."

"Lack of engagement of pupils."

"Broader networking opportunities with CPD events."

"Reduced opportunities to explore breadth of PE opportunities e.g. limiting of games/sports offered."

"Reduced opportunities for children to take part in inter school matches and activities, fewer sports competitions in school, resources and equipment will not be as well maintained and looked after, PE will reduce in importance as staff are busy on so many other things, children's health and fitness will be affected."

"Reduced opportunities to transfer skills to different sports in PE."

"Children will be unable to access competitions and areas of enrichment around sport and being healthy."

"We employ a sports coach who delivers high-quality PE lessons each day. We would have to remove this role and lose this expertise negatively impacting our daily PE lessons, PPA cover, competitions and wraparound care."

"Less innovation for the children; easy now to bring in specialists to trial new things/make an awareness of what options exist eg Bollywood dancing, tennis etc."

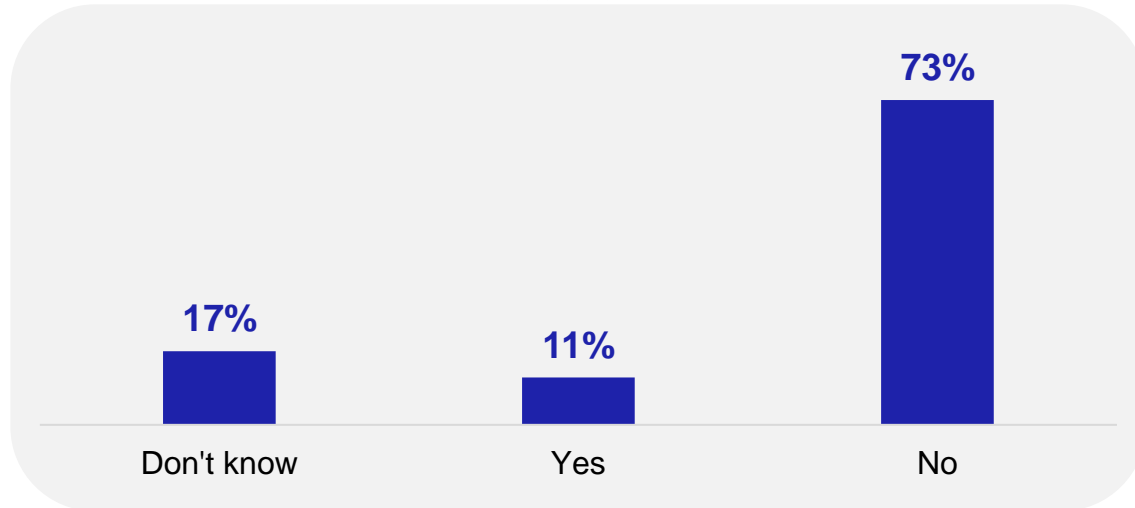
"Reduction in variety and type of PE so less able children will miss out."

Sample: 18 respondents (those who selected "Other" to the question: "If yes, what do you think will be the impact of this on curriculum PE?")

Impact on current school offer

73% felt that if the funding is not renewed, their school would not be able to maintain their current physical activity and after-school sport offer.

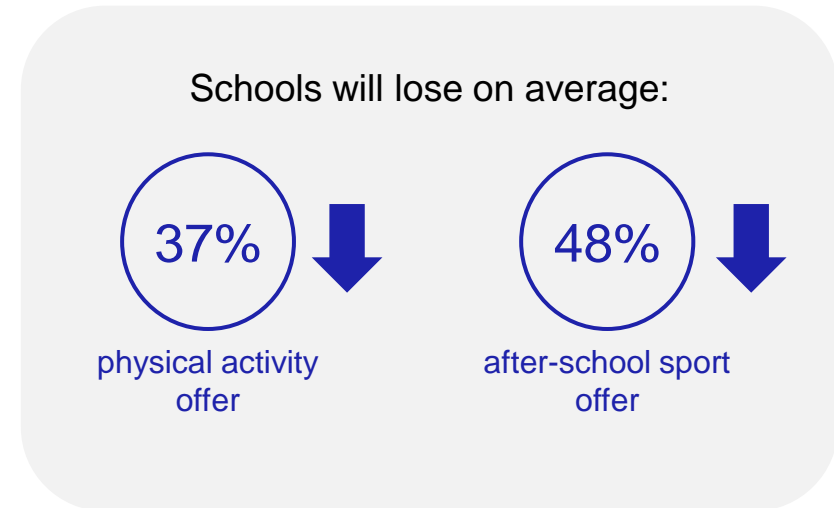
If the funding is not renewed, will your school be able to maintain the current physical activity and after-school sport offer?



Sample: 405 respondents



If no...



Sample: 295 respondents. Questions that were asked: If no, by roughly what % will your physical activity offer be reduced by? If no, by roughly what % will your after-school sport offer be reduced by?

Impact on schools with higher FSM levels

Responses from those who work in schools with higher FSM eligibility levels show that children from socially disadvantaged backgrounds could be the worst affected if the funding is not renewed.

FSM eligibility levels

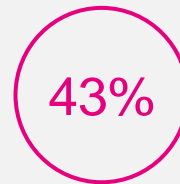
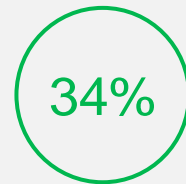
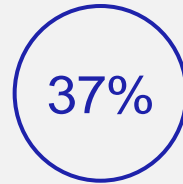
- Survey responses from those who work in schools with **low levels of FSM eligibility (< 20.9%)**

Sample: 164 respondents

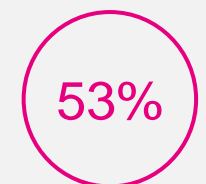
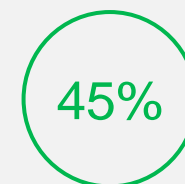
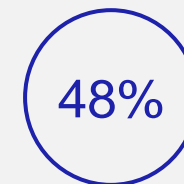
- Survey responses from those who work in schools with **high levels of FSM eligibility (> 23%)**

Sample: 115 respondents

Reduced physical activity offer



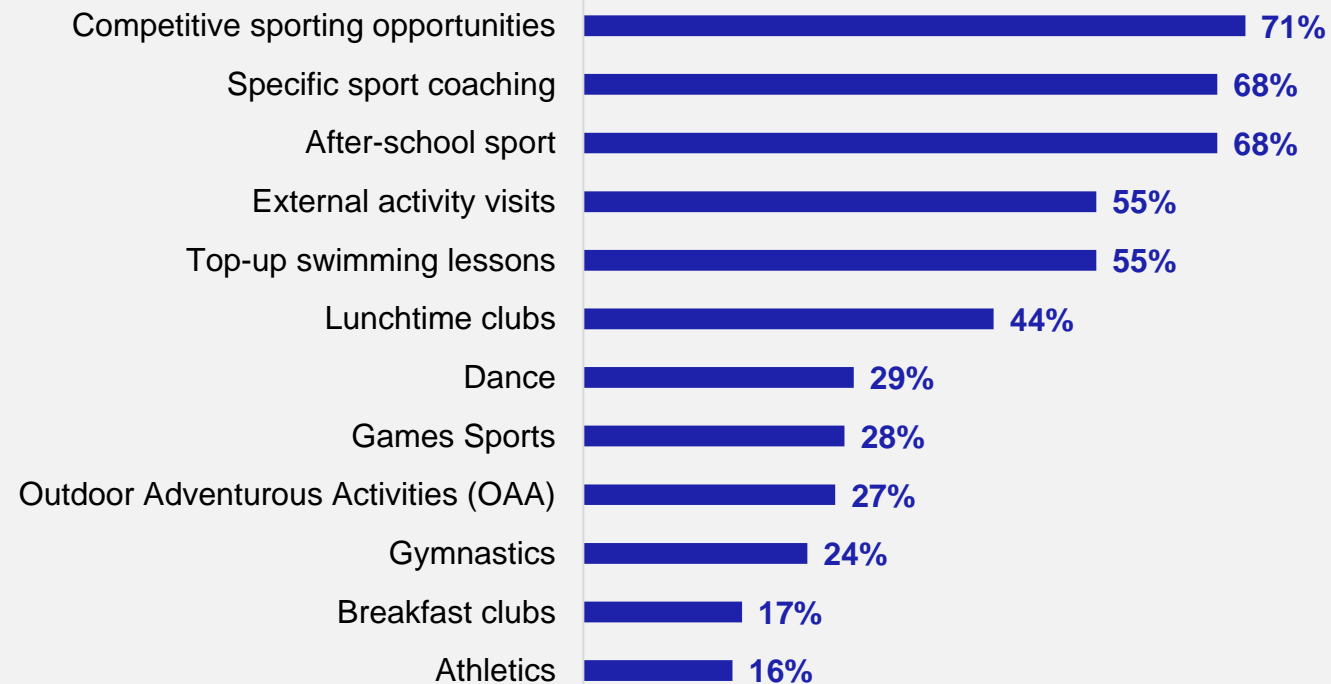
Reduced after-school sport offer



Impact on sport participation opportunities

If the funding is not renewed, the majority of respondents said they would no longer be able to offer competitive sporting opportunities, specific sport coaching or any kind of after-school sport.

Which of the following do you currently offer, which you would no longer be able to offer if the funding is not renewed?



Sample: 405 respondents

Impact on sport participation opportunities

Which of the following do you currently offer, which you would no longer be able to offer if the funding is not renewed?



Sample: 20 respondents (those who selected "Other" to the question: "Which of the following do you currently offer, which you would no longer be able to offer if the funding is not renewed?")

Impact on top-up swimming lessons

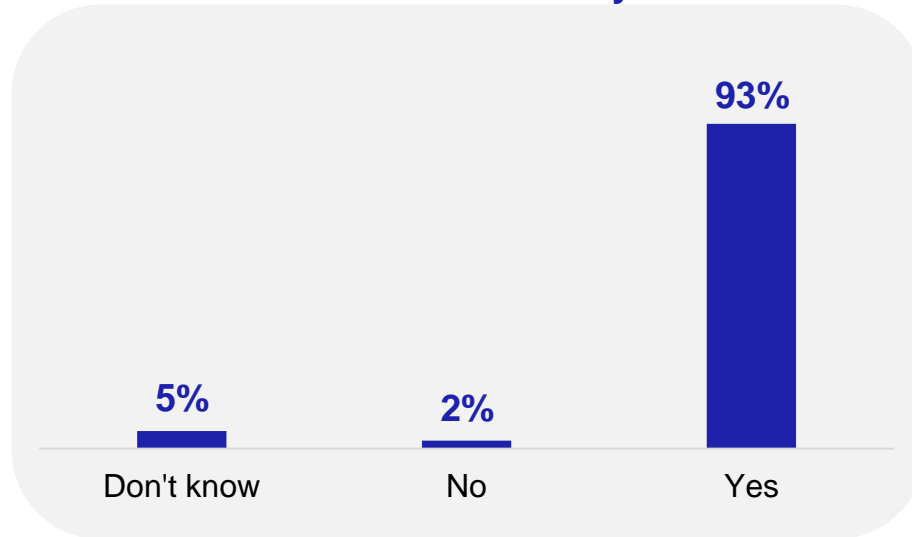
Of those who would no longer be able to offer top-up swimming lessons if the funding is not renewed, almost all (93%) agreed that this would affect the number of children able to swim before they leave school.



of survey respondents currently offer top-up swimming lessons, and say they would have to discontinue this if the funding is not renewed

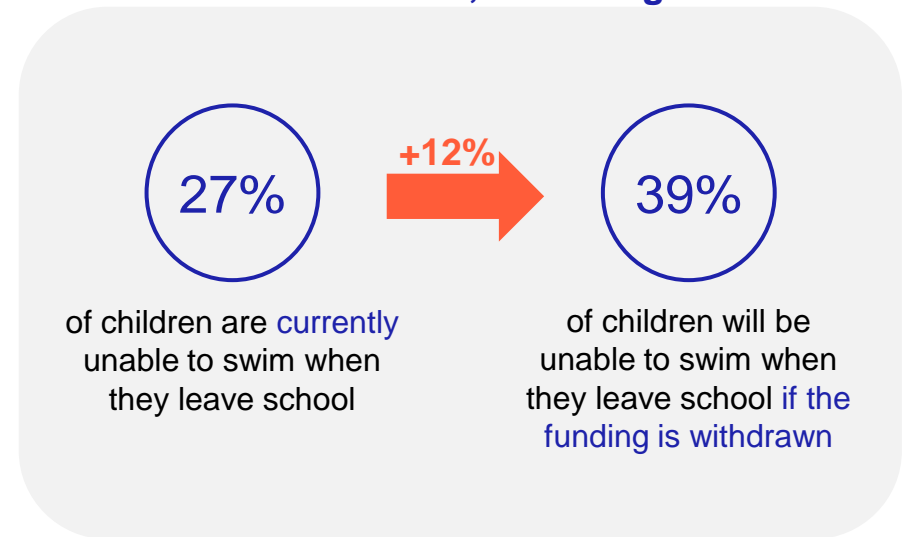
Sample: 405 respondents

Do you think this will affect the number of children who are able to swim before they leave school?



Sample: 221 respondents

Per school, on average...



Sample: 221 respondents. Questions that were asked: Approximately what % of children in your school are currently unable to swim when they leave? Approximately what % of children in your school will be unable to swim when they leave if the PE and School Sport Premium Funding is withdrawn?

Impact on schools with higher FSM levels

Responses from those who work in schools with higher FSM eligibility levels show that children from socially disadvantaged backgrounds could be the worst affected by a reduction in top-up swimming.

FSM eligibility levels

■ Survey responses from those who work in schools with **low levels of FSM eligibility (< 20.9%)**

Sample: 123 respondents

■ Survey responses from those who work in schools with **high levels of FSM eligibility (> 23%)**

Sample: 88 respondents

Children currently unable to swim when they leave school

27%

Aggregate data

20%

low FSM levels



36%

high FSM levels

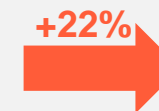
Children unable to swim when they leave school if the funding is withdrawn

39%

Aggregate data

30%

low FSM levels



52%

high FSM levels

Conclusions

Research carried out by the Youth Sport Trust among primary schools lays bare the potential consequences for young people if the Primary PE and Sport Premium Funding is not renewed, with decisions set to be taken by schools at the end of this month (February) to start reducing provision.

Only half of survey respondents (46%) will be able to offer the recommended minimum of 30 minutes of physical activity a day for every child in their school if the funding is not renewed as set out in the School Sport and Activity Action Plan. The majority (73%) feel that their school would not be able to maintain their current physical activity and after-school sport offer. This has crucial, long-term implications, for example over half of respondents (55%) will no longer be able to offer top-up swimming lessons. As a result, nearly all (93%) respondents agree that this would affect the number of children able to swim before they leave school.

The Youth Sport Trust, schools, young people, sports stars and the country's leading sport organisations are calling for immediate confirmation from Government that this essential funding will continue into the next academic year and beyond

The Youth Sport Trust has long called for this funding to be spent strategically and backed by an ambitious long-term School Sport and Activity Action Plan which is built around a national ambition for every child to be active for 60 minutes every day.



**YOUTH
SPORT
TRUST**

www.youthsporttrust.org | [@YouthSportTrust](https://www.instagram.com/YouthSportTrust)