

REPORT FROM THE SPORT STRATEGY GROUP

INTRODUCTION

As a Sport Strategy Group we have been tasked with reviewing our whole sport plan and developing a clear set of goals and focus as we look to maintain our aim of promoting fitnessandhealthforlife@hutchie.

Over the past few months we have considered our own and other similar, or rival schools, in terms of ethos, support, culture and facilities. Together, as a group, we have agreed on a strategy for Hutchesons' Sport over the foreseeable future and produced recommendations on what we believe is needed in order to strengthen the delivery of the goals we set ourselves. In doing this, we considered the three P's as being key areas of our remit as improving Participation, Performance and Personal Development.

Getting more pupils, more active, more often is a major goal of our sport programme. In order to do this, we must ensure we are creating an inclusive environment and providing sustainable and enjoyable participation opportunities while offering programmes for all levels of individual athletic talent.

WHERE WE ARE NOW

Our strengths are in the tradition of competitive sport with an established successful programme and fixture lists for rugby, hockey (boys and girls) and cricket. We have pupil support for football and athletics to grow. Many of our pupils are keen athletes with a desire to compete and improve both as individuals and as part of the team. Our coaching structure in these sports is well established with involvement of specialist staff and they support pathways to county, district, national and international representation.

In addition to this we provide opportunities at a lower level for in-house competition and special 'event' days in the Primary school. Participation rates compare very favourably with national averages (we have 84% of boys and 75% of girls actively involved in sport and our games programme, in the winter and spring terms, currently offers ten sport options for girls (S4-S6) and eleven for boys (S4-S6). In younger years there is less choice of sport. However, it is the case that we have a lower participation rate for girls and that our choice of options is somewhat limited, we may be a little wedded to tradition. There is a lack of opportunity for the non-competitive pupil who is, potentially, keen to develop fitness and health through exercise. There is no doubt that our current facilities are in need of updating and are limiting our capacity for improvement and development. We are also restricted by a shortage of adequate changing facilities at all three school sites.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

At Hutchie we enjoy a good base level of participation and support, many of our pupils are keen and enthusiastic competitors and athletes though there is a shrinking number who come from traditionally 'sporting' families but we are falling behind other schools in terms of facilities and emphasis on the development of character education offered through sport.

In common with most good independent schools sport at Hutchesons', and competitive sport in particular, has long played a central role in the institution. It is not an optional extra but rather

a key component in building self-esteem, confidence, school ethos and even academic excellence. Young people learn respect, focus and commitment, find grit, determination and honesty and work individually and collectively towards achieving their goal. These are real life transferable skills, vital for future success and fulfilment.

The drive to compete and excel in sport shapes a young person's character, binds the school together and reinforces the drive to compete and excel academically. Competitive sport is used to energise the entire school culture and as leaders in the school it is our role to understand its value and continually promote it. Pride in a team, the thrill of the new challenge and encouraging every pupil to have a go all pay dividends in building character. We require to align the importance of sport with our academic excellence to establish an all-round culture of success.

WHAT WE CONCLUDE

The time is now right to improve the range and quality of the facilities at Hutchie, to build upon the improving sporting culture in Glasgow, Scotland and beyond and to feed off the positivity generated by recent major sporting events and successes.

At Hutchesons' we believe our goal should be **fitnessandhealthforlife@hutchie**

To achieve our goal it is important that we maintain the enthusiasm as children grow up, give them the physical skills to develop and learn and teach them the importance of being active throughout their lives. Providing the pupils with opportunities to take part in and develop a love of sport and physical activity is vital to ensuring their long term enjoyment and participation. We want everyone to feel that sport is for him or her, no matter if they are a seasoned athlete or a complete beginner. We want to see healthy, happy active children becoming healthy happy active adults as well as providing the encouragement and pathway for the talented school pupil of today becoming the sporting star of the future.

THE STRATEGY

Sports Strategy for Hutchie

Mission Statement

Every pupil has his or her sporting passion identified and nurtured.

Vision Statement

Health and Fitness for Life @Hutchie

Smart Targets by 2025

1. *100% enthusiastic weekly participation in physical exercise across all year groups.*
2. *To be recognised across Scotland as a school for Sporting excellence.*
3. *To be a leading school rugby team in Scotland.*
4. *To be leading boys and girls hockey teams in Scotland.*
5. *To be a leading boys and girls school for Athletics.*

Strategy

- Create opportunities for all pupils to enjoy active participation in sport and fitness for life.
- Build a culture of success - aim to win.
- Regularly produce competitive school teams capable of entering and winning national competitions.
- Provide high quality facilities.

- Establish a regional/national reputation for high quality competitive sports.
- Ensure there is depth in the number of teams fielded in competitive sports.
- Operate a regular fixture list that ensures competitive matches against quality opposition.
- Provide a pathway to national/international representation.
- Appoint and develop exceptional leaders/teachers and coaches capable of producing exceptional performers/teams.
- Continue to nurture and develop links with well established local and professional clubs.
- Ensure sport has a very high profile in school life.
- Provide support and assistance for staff to be involved.

Next Steps

Once we have agreed on the Strategy in principle the points listed above will be expanded into specific action plans that will set the culture and sporting ethos going forward in order to best achieve our targets. It is very important that fitnessandhealth@Hutchie is embedded into the core message of the school and is celebrated, considered and promoted in all we do and say.

