

Primary school sport and physical activity programmes

2013 / 2014

Five primary school sport and physical activity programmes were delivered in the 2013 / 2014 academic year.

SPORTSHALL Athletics

15 schools and 1,500 pupils participated on our SPORTSHALL Athletics programme in the last quarter of 2013 delivered by our interns. This programme culminated in the Offaly inter schools SPORTSHALL Athletics county final for 2013 / 2014 held in February 2014.

All Ireland SPORTSHALL Athletics

In March 2014, 15 counties; 35 schools; and 723 pupils participated in the fourth annual All Ireland SPORTSHALL Athletics Festival in Athlone.

Edenderry Boys National School represented Offaly in the 3rd / 4th and 5th / 6th class boys' category, finishing fourth and fifth respectively. St Philomena's Girls National School represented Offaly in the 3rd / 4th class girls' category while Ballinamere National School represented Offaly in the 5th / 6th class girls category; finishing tenth and fifth respectively.

In support of the programme, students from Athlone Institute of Technology were trained to assist in the delivery of the All Ireland SPORTSHALL Athletics Festival.

Football Association of Ireland 5s

Offaly Sports Partnership worked in conjunction with the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) to deliver the Offaly FAI 5s. Nine schools, 18 teams and 144 pupils participated in the event. Scoil Mhuire Bainríon (Edenderry Boys National School) qualified for the Section C schools final and finished runners up.

Fit School Monitor

This programme was established to develop over a number of years accurate baselines across the county for speed and endurance among primary schools pupils; and to use these baselines thereafter to monitor improvements or deteriorations in the fitness levels of children with regard to speed and endurance.

1,650 pupils from 11 schools participated in the tests to establish the initial baselines in the first year. Initial findings showed that up to eight years of age, girls in Offaly were achieving higher scores than their UK counterparts. From nine years, there is generally parity between Offaly scores and UK norms; but from 11 years on, Offaly scores are falling below UK norms.

Inter schools swim gala

Offaly Sports Partnership piloted an inter schools swim gala for 10 schools and 167 pupils from Tullamore and its environs. The gala was delivered in conjunction with Aura Tullamore and Tullamore Swim Club. Up to 10 participants from the gala went on to join the club thereafter.