

Inequalities Funding Report 2023: North Somerset Schools Netball Development for Girls

Background:

We had noticed a decline in participation amongst girls in netball since the pandemic and a lack of confidence amongst teaching staff to coach and officiate.

Project aims:

We decided to apply inequalities funding to try and address the decline, with the explicit aim of increasing opportunities for girls to play with the World Cup taking place in Summer 2023. We sought to provide a series of 'Give it a Try' festivals across the academic year to build confidence ahead of the annual Level 2 competitions and in the build up to the World Cup. We also wanted to try and upskill staff and build confidence by offering Bee Netball CPD.

Year 5/6 'Stingers' Bee Netball 'Give it a Try' Festival – September 2022 at BGS

We were delighted to start our 2022-23 calendar of sporting events with a netball festival in a year where we are looking to raise the profile of the sport and increase playing opportunities across our primary schools.

Following on from the excitement of the Commonwealth Games netball and taking inspiration from the England Roses', we were pleased to welcome ten teams to BGS Sports-ground in Failland on what turned out to be a very pleasant Autumn morning.

This event was specifically aimed at pupils that were new to netball with the intent of developing players understanding of the various 'Stingers' positions and building confidence through drills and games.

Teams were drawn to play four friendly matches against other schools and the improvement from start to finish was marked. We are looking to see this development continue with a planned program of staff training, coaching sessions, friendly matches, festivals and tournaments, utilising grant funding received from the Active Schools Partnership, Wesport.

All 80 players should be commended for their passion, determination, self-belief and teamwork.

A big thank you to all staff who supported this event, team managing and officiating so positively.



Year 5/6 'Stingers' Bee Netball 'Give it a Try' Festival continued...



Action from the 'Stingers' Bee Netball 'Give it a Try' Festival



10 Attending Schools – All Saints, St Annes, Churchill, Burrington, Worle Village, Yeo Moor, Fairfield, St Francis, Crockerne and Portishead. 80 participants – 68 girls and 12 boys.

Year 5/6 Large and Small Primary 'Stingers' Bee Netball Level 2 Tournaments

In March we hosted our annual Level 2 'Stingers' Bee Netball competitions with pathways to the level 3 School Games finals. We explicitly shared with schools that this opportunity was intended for school teams that felt confident their children were ready for competition. As a result, the attendance at this event was down on past years which was expected, and we instead signposted teams to the 'World Cup Festivals' that would be hosted in term 6 (see later report).



Year 5/6 Large and Small Primary 'Stingers' Bee Netball Level 2 Tournaments continued...



More action from the year 5/6 Large and Small Primary 'Stingers' Bee Netball Level 2 Tournaments

*The Level 2 School Games competition continues to be a girl only pathway. This allows those girls that are less experienced and who may lack confidence to develop. This certainly proved to be the case with the tournament seeing huge strides made by all teams and played with a fantastic spirit that embodied all the School Games values. *Boys continue to be invited to all 'Give it a Try' and 'World Cup' festivals.

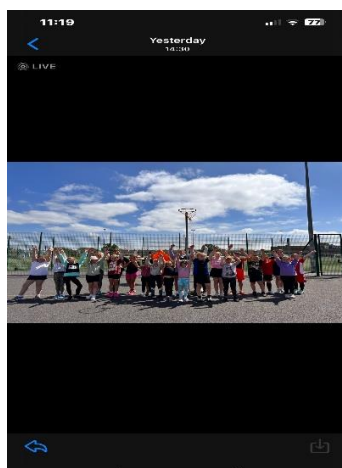


7 school teams attended – Yeo Moor, Crockerne, Grove, All Saints, Portishead, Wrington and St Annes. 58 participants – all girls.

Thanks so much for today. The girls were absolutely buzzing afterwards. (Grove)

FREE half-term holiday Netball Camps

Working with local community club provider Royals Netball, we decided to offer FREE Netball Camps for girls and boys across the June half-term. 3 sessions were offered at 3 North Somerset secondary sites, and these were promoted through the primary and secondary PE leads. These days were open to players of all experience and abilities.



Action from across the 3 FREE Netball camps held over June half-term.

3 Netball Camps at 3 venues.

Participants 63 – 27 Worle, 23 Clevedon and 13 Gordano

Brilliant days across the board.

Lots of new faces to us with very mixed experience of netball.

Feedback from them seems very positive so hopefully we can retain them and build a whole new lower level of juniors. (Royals Coaches)

FREE Summer Holiday Netball Camps across 3 venues

After the success of the June half-term sessions, 3 more Netball Camps will be offered in the summer holidays.

In addition, opportunities to transition into the regular weekly club-based sessions will be supported in September for those keen to continue.

Year 4/5 'World Cup' Netball Festivals

With the Netball World Cup taking place in South Africa in July and August, we wanted to offer a pre-event festival to inspire the next generation of potential players. We targeted year 4/5 players as these will be next year's year 5/6 and those that will be eligible for our pathway competitions. We offered North and South venues to encourage as many schools as possible to participate.

Building on the strong working relationship with Royals we were delighted to be supported by two talented and high-performance players and coaches who had played in North Somerset Primary events themselves in the past.

Year 4/5 'World Cup' Bee Netball Festival (South)

We were delighted to welcome 6 primary teams to Priory School for the first of our two 'World Cup Netball Festivals' and even more pleased that two of these schools were two of the least engaged schools in School Games over recent times.

Upon arrival, the fantastic Priory Netball Activators warmly welcomed the teams and quickly set about delivering a range of fun and challenging warm-up drills. They then split into two teams to play a demonstration match for the attending primary teams. This provided an opportunity for us to highlight positions and key rules of the 'Stingers' format.

Teams were then drawn to play their first friendly match. We made it very clear that this was a festival, and no results would be collated, with the focus on having fun and improving. Netball Activators initially acted as coaches to their allocated teams and quickly set about encouraging and supporting their players.

After the first round of matches a new coaching drill was shared and time given to teams to practice, supported by the Activators. Further friendly matches and coaching drills followed, with Activators taking on responsibility for umpiring.



6 School teams attended – Sidcot, St Mark's, Worle Village, St Nicholas Chantry, St Annes and Mendip Green. 49 participants – 33 girls and 16 boys.

A great afternoon of fun netball, just the right amount of play and coaching / training. A wonderful experience for all the children. (St Annes)

The year 5's loved the netball. Thank you. So well ran, inclusive, inspiring, and amazing sports leaders. (St Nicholas Chantry)

Year 4/5 'World Cup' Bee Netball Festival (North)

8 teams attended the 'World Cup Festival at BGS, Failand. Following a similar format to the Priory event teams were encouraged to start warming up as soon as they arrived. Once all teams were registered, we welcomed everyone and introduced Sydney and Maddie from Royals (and Severn Stars). They started by introducing the teams to a drill which all teams went off to practice before bringing everyone back together to watch a demonstration match between two of the primary teams (we did not have secondary leaders at this event).

As at the South festival, the teams then enjoyed a cycle of friendly matches and coaching drills, which included a shooting masterclass. It was lovely to see players applying what was learnt in their matches and the progress across the festival was again marked.



Action from the 'World Cup' Festival (North) hosted at BGS Sports-ground in Failand.

8 Schools attended – Haywood Village, Grove, Golden Valley, Burrington, Portishead, Backwell, Wrington and Crockerne. 70 participants – 62 girls and 8 boys.

Thanks Shane - our feedback is we loved the morning. Girls were so inspired by Sydney and Maddie being there and the format of drills and games was excellent for them. (Portishead)



Inequalities Funding Report 2023: North Somerset Schools Netball Development for Girls

In summary:

This has been a largely successful project that has seen us begin the process of raising the profile of netball amongst our primary schools. There has been a tangible excitement from the players and staff involved and this is something we will continue to build on in the next academic year.

We have already planned to offer a festival (North and South) in the Autumn term to provide another opportunity for teams and players to play, with further opportunities scheduled across the year. We are also exploring the idea of replicating our highly successful girls' football 'Knockout Cup and Plate' with netball.

We are also exploring the possibility of offering a boy only festival and competition in the 2023-24 academic year. There are currently no pathway opportunities for boys between 11-18 years and we would be keen to understand more about future plans to address this as there are keen players in the primary settings.

We look forward to hearing how many children attend the FREE Summer Netball Camps across the 3 secondary venues and will work with the Royals to try and support transition into club activity.

Tuesday 8th August
10am- 2.30pm
FREE!

Thursday 31st August
10am- 2.30pm
£15

ROYALS NC

FOR SCHOOL YEARS:
3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8!

*Do you fancy a day full of fun netball related games?
We're advertising a day of FREE netball, welcoming all abilities!
If you haven't tried netball before here's your chance to learn whilst
having fun with friends! Both boys and girls welcome!
We will also be running another netball fun day at the end of summer as
a final taster before a new school term starts for only £15 per child!*

CLEVEDON
At Clevedon School BS21 6AH
10am- 2.30pm
CONTACT:
Lynnej1664@gmail.com

ST. KATHERINE'S
At St. Katherine's School BS20 0HU
10am- 2.30pm
CONTACT:
Lynnej1664@gmail.com

WESTON
At Worle School (@worle-centre) BS22 6AQ
10am-2.30pm
CONTACT:
michelle.hambley@yahoo.com

We have not been able to progress our plan to provide Bee Netball Teacher CPD for primary staff as these courses are currently not available. However, we are in contact with Kerry Brooks (NDO) and we are hoping that an opportunity will arise to revisit this if they reintroduce these courses.

Thank you!

Shane German (North Somerset SGO) and the NSSPEA team.