

# Secondary Physical Education: A Manifesto to restore PE in Secondary Schools

Recent years have seen a decline in the quality and quantity of Physical Education (PE) taught to children aged 11-18 in secondary schools. Dwindling central government funding and the demands placed on staff to prioritise results in academic subjects have left PE squeezed out of the curriculum for older children with devastating effects.

Childhood inactivity is one of the chief causes of spiralling childhood obesity and poor mental health among teenagers. We are witnessing a national crisis; the time teenagers spend playing sport and exercising at school is shrinking and, at the same time, most of their leisure time activity is screen-based, indoors, alone and sedentary. The result is an entire generation of young people who are being denied the essential benefits to their wellbeing of sport, physical activity and exercise.

Whilst primary schools have enjoyed an increase in PE funding thanks to funding from the PE and Sport Premium and the 'sugar tax', secondary schools' PE provision has, in contrast, suffered an alarming decline in recent years. The forthcoming general election on 12 December is a rare chance to put the needs of young people & teenagers first.

An urgent, cultural change is required in the funding of secondary school physical education to see, once again, what we already know – that sport and physical activity are fundamental to the healthy physical, mental, social and emotional development of children and teenagers.



**This election manifesto intends to elevate the status of PE in secondary schools so that every young person in the UK has access to excellent sport and physical activity provision.**



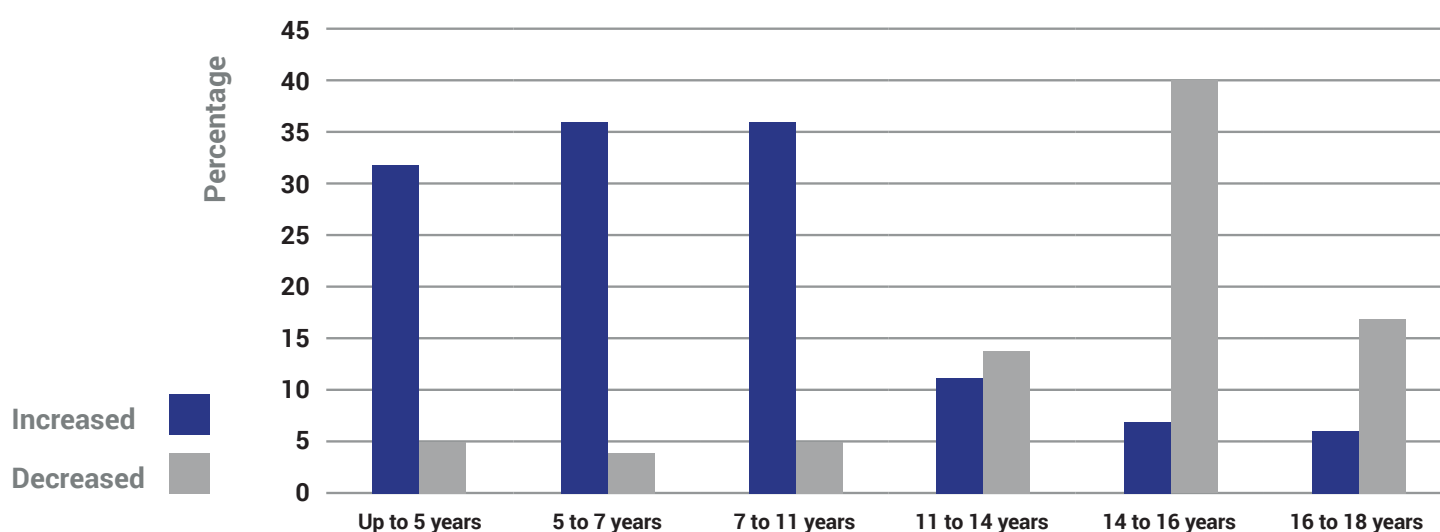
# The disparity between primary and secondary PE provision is stark:



- 80% of primary schools say PE provision has improved: **56% of secondary schools say that their PE provision has declined or stayed the same**
- **34% of secondary schools say their budgets are decreasing:** 10% of primary schools say the same
- 72% of primary schools say funding is adequate **but only 40% of secondary say the same**
- **Secondary schools worry about further cuts to budget**
- **55% of secondary schools believe quality PE provision has declined or stayed the same**
- 25% of respondents expressing concern that secondary PE provision has declined over the past five years say it is **as a result of wider funding issues and a focus on EBacc subjects**
- **Only 40% of secondary schools say they have adequate funding**

*Independent SPE Data, 2019*

## Has the time allocated to PE changed in the last five years?



## We are calling on the next government to make good the inequality in primary and secondary PE funding and provision by immediately:

- 1** Extending the ringfenced 'sugar tax' funding for sport in schools to include secondary schools as well as primary to ensure that all children aged 11-18 have access to the appropriate level of quality physical education
- 2** Raising the profile of PE in secondary schools such that it is as valued a discipline as any other school subject and ensuring adequate resources are in place to do so
- 3** Implementing the necessary processes to empower and enable secondary school staff to once again prioritise physical education in their timetables
- 4** Ensuring that this renewed emphasis on secondary PE is sustained by implementing regular audits on the national state of physical education in secondary schools