



National strategy for PE, school sport and club links

THE IMPACT OF SCHOOL SPORT PARTNERSHIPS

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Summary

The Department for Education and Skills commissioned a survey in autumn 2003 into PE and sport in schools belonging to the first 31 School Sport Partnerships (known as Phase 1). 1,341 schools responded, including those involved in their Partnership since its establishment in September 2000 and those that had been members for a matter of weeks.

Participation in high-quality PE and school sport

- Overall, 61% of pupils in Phase 1 Partnership schools spend at least two hours in a typical week on high-quality PE and school sport within and beyond the curriculum.
- This proportion varies from a low of 35% and 37% in Years 1 and 2 respectively to a high of 87%, 84% and 81% in Years 7, 8 and 9 respectively.

Sports provision

- Each school provides an average of more than 14 different sports.

Competition

- Almost all schools (95%) held at least one sports day during the last academic year.
- A total of 35% of pupils from Years 4 to 11 were involved in some form of *inter-school* competition.
- In a typical week, 21% of pupils are involved in *intra-school* competition.

Club links

- Schools have club links for an average of five different sports.
- Across all year groups, an average of 18% of pupils participated in one or more clubs with links to the school.

Volunteering

- Across Years 10-11, an average of 12% of all pupils are actively involved in sports volunteering and leadership.

Background

Aims

All children, whatever their circumstances, should be able to participate in and enjoy PE and school sport. Regular participation, both within and beyond the curriculum, can reduce obesity, improve fitness levels and, by improving concentration and self-esteem, help attendance, behaviour and attainment.

Over £1 billion is being invested by the Government to transform PE and school sport. An ambitious Public Service Agreement target, shared by DfES and DCMS, has been set to increase the percentage of school children who spend at least two hours each week on high-quality PE and school sport within and beyond the curriculum to 75% by 2006.

Partnership model

School Sport Partnerships are the main vehicle for delivering the national strategy for PE, school sport and club links. They are families of schools that enhance sports opportunities by improving coordination, links between primary and secondary schools and out-of-hours opportunities, coaching, leadership and community sport.

Partnerships are typically made up of a specialist sports college, eight secondary schools and around 45 feeder primary and special schools. They start up at half this size before subsequently expanding.

Each Partnership receives a grant of up to £270,000 each year to pay for a full-time Partnership Development Manager; the release of one teacher from each secondary school for two days a week to allow them to take on the role of School Sport Coordinator; the release of one teacher from each primary or special school for 12 days a year to allow them to become Link Teachers; and Specialist Link Teachers who fill the gaps created by teacher release.

Original Phase 1 Partnership schools were located in areas of deprivation, both rural and urban.

Statistics

There are currently 222 School Sport Partnerships with 1,243 School Sport Coordinators and 6,664 Link Teachers. Over a third of maintained schools in England already belong to a Partnership. 134 of the 150 Local Education Authorities have at least one Partnership, and 13 have 100% coverage. Half of all schools will belong to a Partnership by September 2004, three-quarters by September 2005 and (subject to the outcome of the 2004 Spending Review) all schools by September 2006.

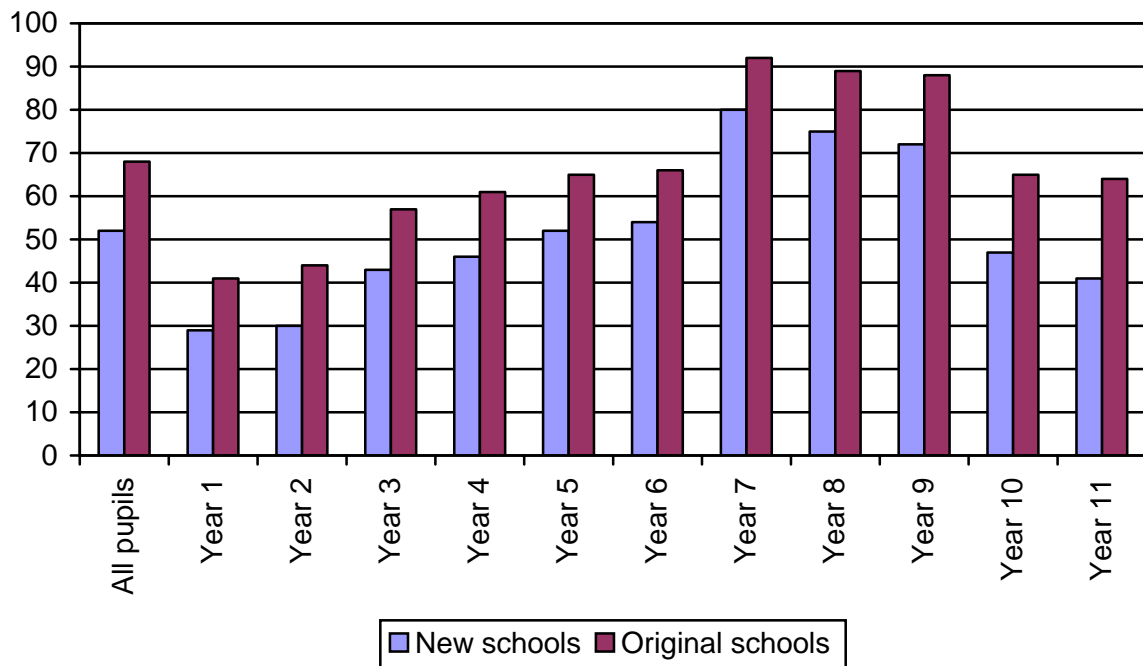
Out of a total of 1,807 schools, 76% of original Phase 1 Partnership schools and 72% of new Phase 1 Partnership schools responded to the survey, a total of 1,341 responses in all. The remaining 191 Partnerships are currently being surveyed, and the combined results will be published at Easter.

Findings

Participation in high-quality PE and school sport

68% of pupils in original schools spend at least two hours in a typical week on high-quality PE and school sport within and beyond the curriculum compared to 52% in new schools. Participation in original schools already meets or exceeds the Government's target in Years 7, 8 and 9; this is also true in new schools in Years 7 and 8.

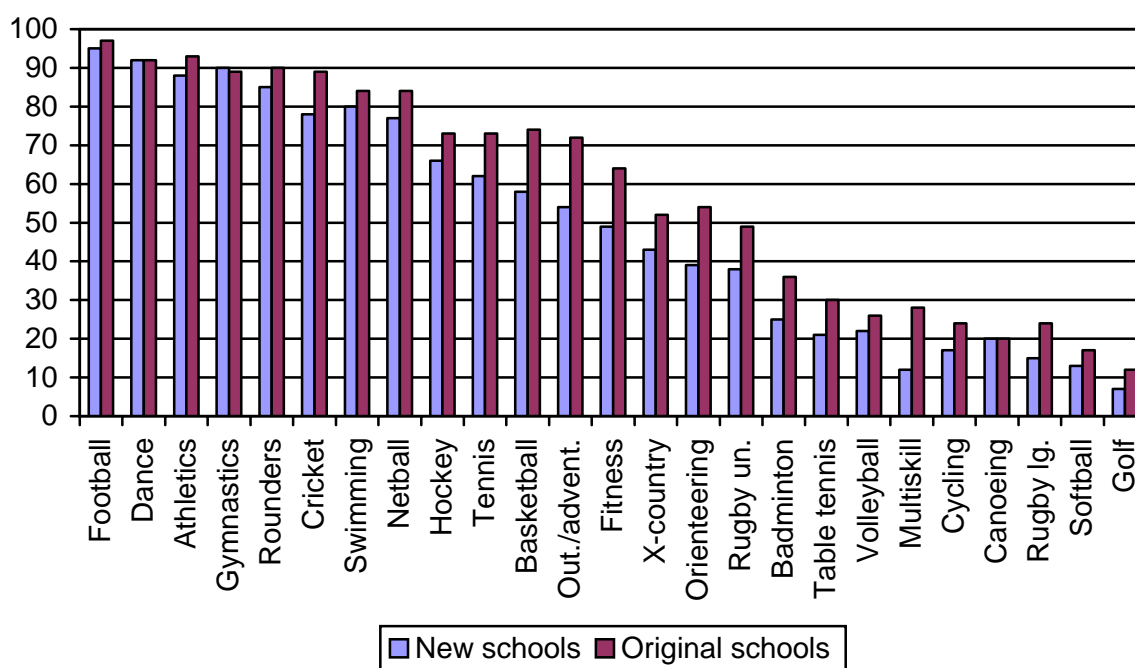
Figure 1. Participation in high-quality PE and school sport (%).



Sports provision

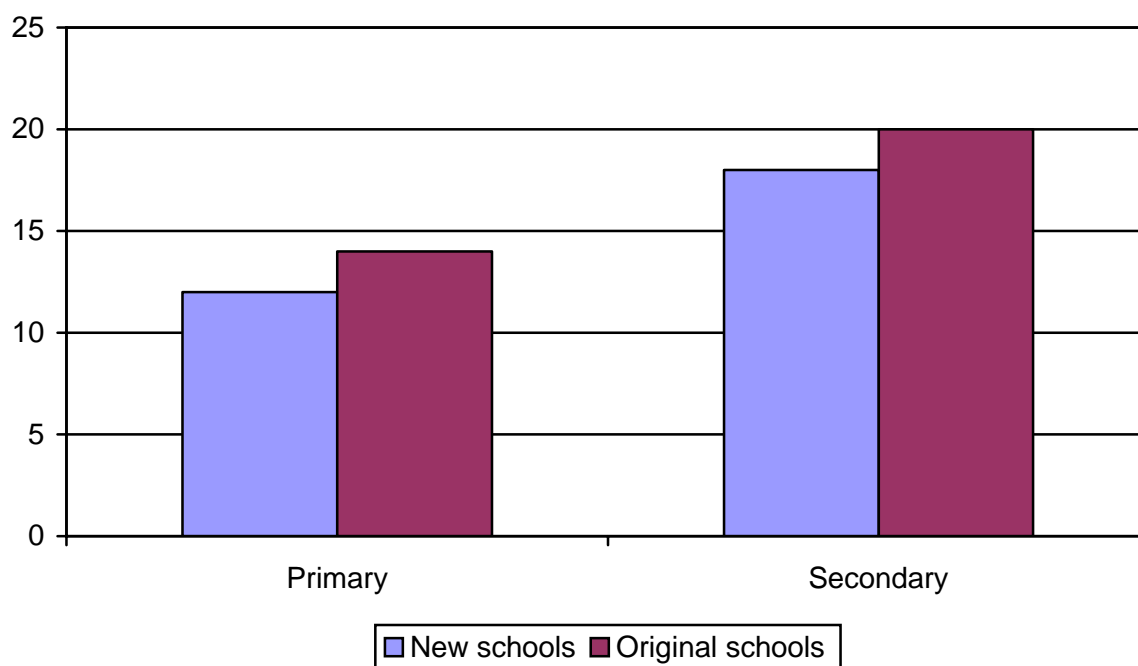
Original schools are consistently more likely to provide specific sports and activities than new schools. Those with the greatest differences are outdoors/adventurous (18% difference), basketball and multiskill (16% difference) and fitness and orienteering (15% difference each). Overall, football (96%), dance (92%) and athletics and gymnastics (91% each) are the sports and activities that schools most commonly provide.

Figure 2. Provision of specific sports and activities (%).



Original primary and secondary schools provide an average of 14 and 20 sports and activities respectively. This compares to 12 and 18 by new primary and secondary schools. In total, schools identified some 43 different sports and activities that they provide.

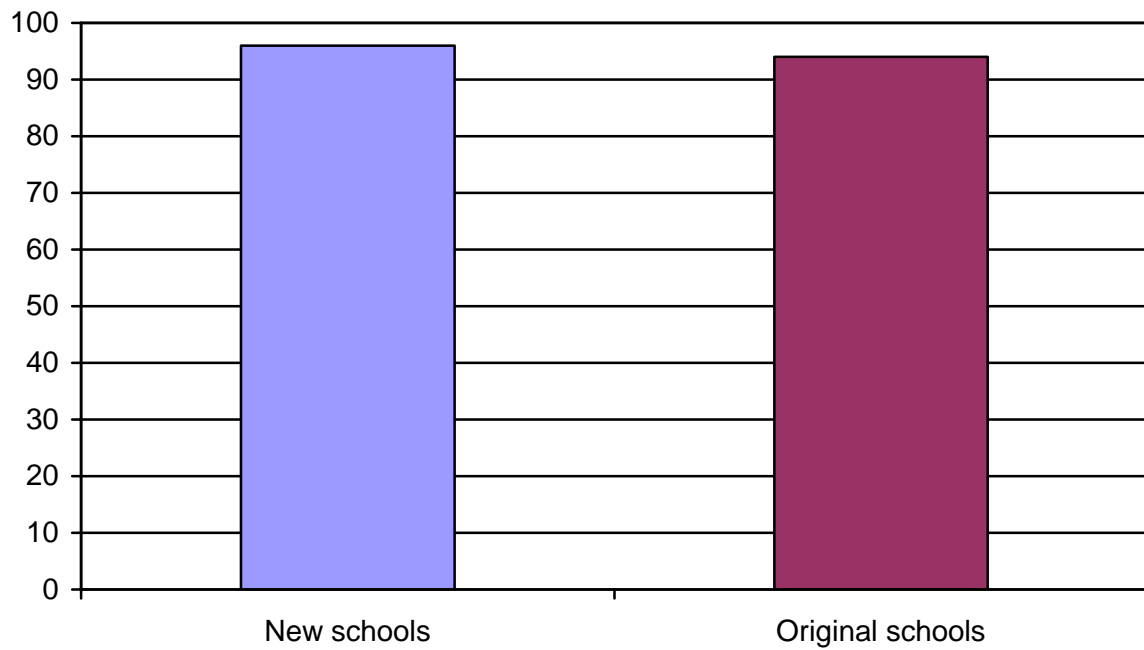
Figure 3. Provision of sports and activities.



Competition

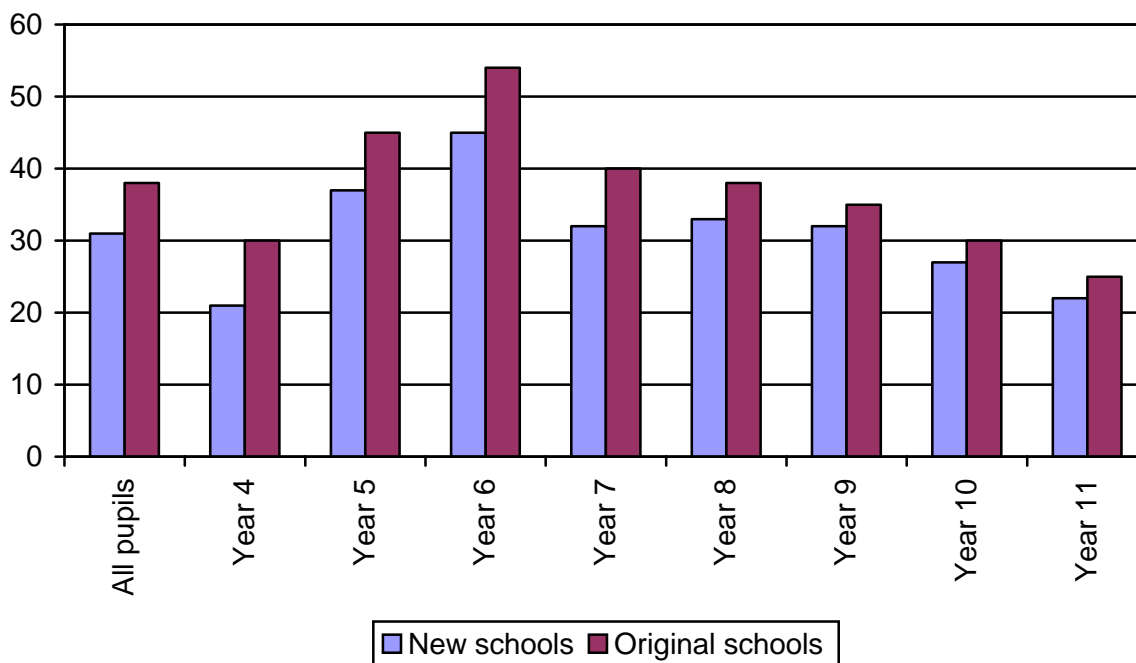
94% of original schools and 96% of new schools held at least one sports day or equivalent event during the last academic year.

Figure 4. Sports days (%).



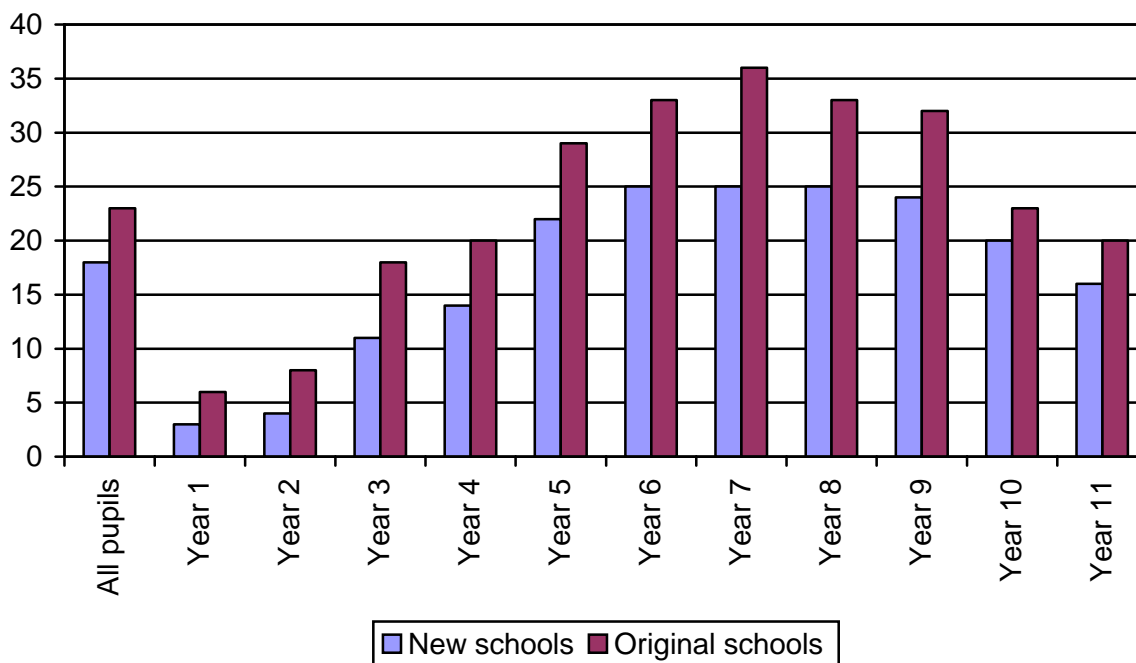
During the last academic year, 38% of pupils in original schools were involved in some form of competition between schools compared to 31% in new schools. Inter-school competition was most likely to take place among pupils from Year 6 and least likely from Year 11.

Figure 5. Inter-school competition (%).



In a typical week, 23% of pupils in original schools are involved in some form of competition within their school compared to 18% in new schools. Intra-school competition is most likely to take place among pupils from Year 7 and least likely from Years 1 and 2.

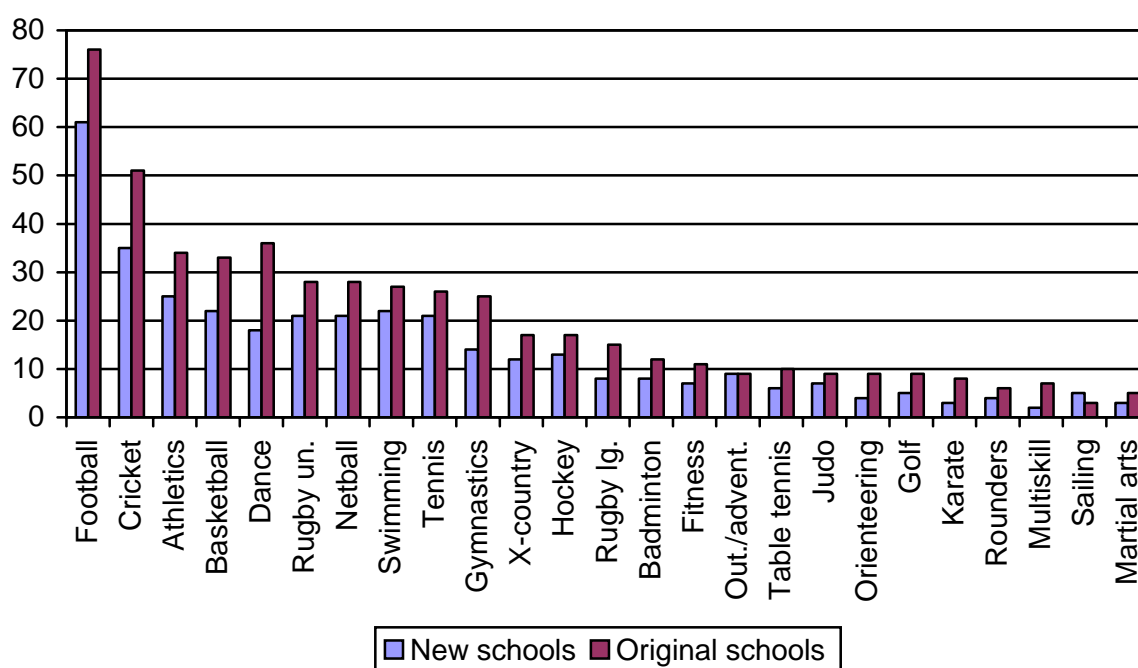
Figure 6. Intra-school competition (%).



Club links

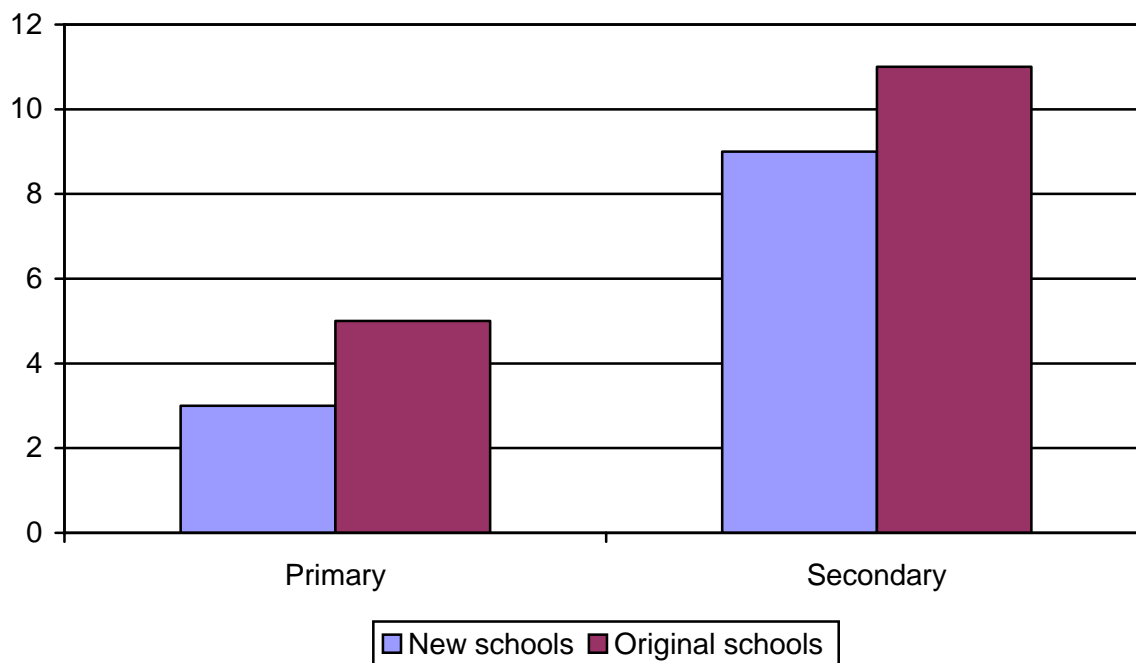
Original schools are consistently more likely to have club links for specific sports and activities than new schools. Those with the greatest differences are dance (18% difference), cricket (16% difference) and football (15% difference). Overall, football (69%), cricket (44%) and athletics (30%) are the sports and activities for which schools most commonly have club links.

Figure 7. Club links for specific sports and activities (%).



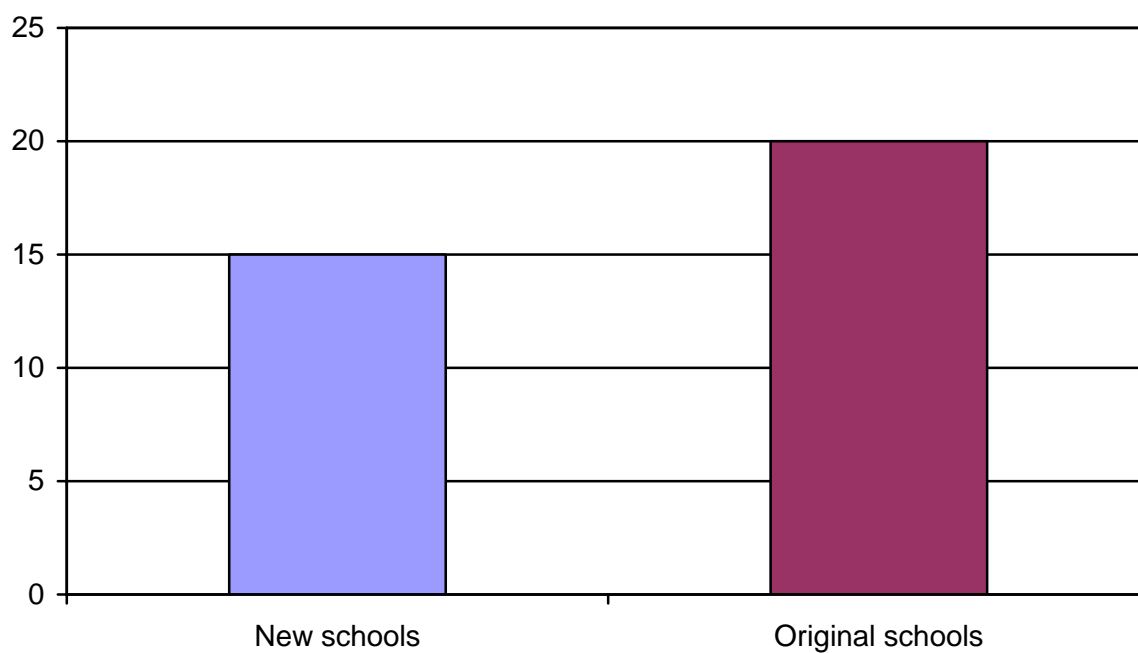
Original primary and secondary schools have club links for an average of five and 11 sports and activities respectively. This compares to three and nine by new primary and secondary schools. In total, schools identified some 42 different sports and activities for which they have club links.

Figure 8. Club links.



20% of pupils in original schools participated in clubs with which the school had links during the last academic year compared to 15% in new schools.

Figure 9. Club participation (%).



Volunteering

15% of Year 10 and 11 pupils in original schools are actively involved in sports volunteering and leadership during the current academic year compared to 6% in original schools.

Figure 10. Volunteering (%).

