

Factsheet 2: Pupils' and young people's views of the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games

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During December 2010 to February 2011 teaching staff and pupils/students were interviewed as part of a wider study commissioned by the then Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) now Department for Education (DfE) to explore whether schools and colleges were using the Olympic and Paralympic Games and Values to help deliver the objectives for **School Sport and Physical Education (PE)** and if so, how.

This factsheet look at findings from the Pupil Survey, comprising of 1264 self-completion questionnaires with pupils and students in 48 schools and 7 FE colleges, and from depth interviews with pupils conducted in schools with pupils in years 4-13 and FE colleges. The full report is available from the DfE website:

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/RSG/AllRsgPublications/Page2/DFE-RR109>

Awareness of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games

Almost all pupils and young people had heard of the Olympic Games (96%) with high **awareness** across Schools and FE colleges. There was also high overall awareness of the following facts:

- Paralympic Games (80%)
- Olympic Games and Paralympic Games in 2012 will be held in London (86%)
- Older pupils and students were more aware of these than primary pupils

Pupils in schools classified as more engaged with the Olympic and Paralympic Games and Values were more likely to have heard of the Paralympic Games. This was the case where participation in sport was high or low, indicating that engagement was driving awareness rather than participation in school sport.

Most pupils and young people felt they had some knowledge about the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (92%) but less than half of pupils and students said they knew a lot or

quite a lot (43%). Less than one in ten pupils and students thought that they knew a lot about the London 2012 Games. Secondary pupils were more likely to say they knew anything (95%) than primary pupils (87%).

"There are loads of games and everyone takes part"
(Pupil, primary school)

"Some people will travel all the way to London just to watch 10 seconds of running"
(Pupil, secondary school)



Benefits of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games

For primary school pupils, the best thing about the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games being held in London was **getting more people involved in sport**, either by taking part in sports (27%) or by going to watch sport.

Among secondary school pupils and FE students (who were shown a wider range of benefits); the best thing about the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games being held in London was that it **promoted sport and fitness** (44%). The top three benefits are shown in the following table.

"... we may be different on the outside, but on the inside we're all the same. All the people forget that until the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games come around" (Pupil, special school)

"England's gonna get a lot of press from this, and that might help into the future on England's sports ..."
(Pupil, secondary school)

Primary Schools	Secondary Schools
<ul style="list-style-type: none">› It will get more people to take part in sport (27%)› Can go to watch it (20%)› Having famous sports stars in the country (19%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› It promotes sport and fitness (44%)› It will get more people to take part in sport (33%)› It is good for the (30%)



Pupil Learning and Olympic Activity

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There were mixed levels of **excitement** about the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games being held in London with ratings spread, a third of pupils and students were very excited (32%) and most showed excitement levels of between 4 – 7 (46%). Younger pupils in primary schools were most excited and FE students were more likely to show lower levels of excitement..

Four in ten pupils (39%) said they had learnt or done things related to the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games at school/college in the last school year while just less than half said they have not (47%). This was highest amongst primary school pupils (51%) compared with secondary (37%) and FE students (22%)

- Most learning was done during PE and sports lessons (62%), followed by other lessons (32%), including history/geography (36%), PSHE/citizenship (25%), design and technology (18%), followed by after school clubs (15%), assembly/form time (11%) and English (7%)

- Overall pupils and students **enjoyed learning** about sport in general (50%), sports competitions such as the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (44%) and to a lesser extent, sports stars and players (36%)

- Four in ten pupils and students felt it made lessons and activities more **fun and interesting** (42%). Pupils in primary schools were particularly likely to think this (62%)

- Over half of pupils and students said that learning about the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games will make them want to **do more PE and sport** (55%). Around a third said that it would stay the same (38%). Again, this was highest for primary pupils (80%) compared with secondary school pupils (49%) and FE students (37%)

- Two thirds (63%) of pupils had tried a **new school sport**, and activities at school in the last school year. This was highest among primary school pupils (74%), then secondary pupils (62%), while just under half of students in FE colleges recalled having done this (46%)

- Pupils in schools with little or no engagement and low school sports participation were least likely to have learnt anything about the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, with 20% having done so (all other engagement and participation segments showed levels between 40 and 49%)

*“Watching the people do it,
makes you want to do it
yourself!”*
(Pupil, primary school)

*“Like young peopleIt could like
teach them if they want to be like
thatlike how to play as a
team”* (Pupil, primary school)



The Olympic and Paralympic Legacy

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To explore attitudes towards the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, pupils and students were asked how much they agreed or disagreed with a series of statements about the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

- There was high awareness that the Paralympic Games holds lots of different sports events for people with different kinds of disabilities (83% agree).
- Six in ten pupils and students agreed that learning about the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games would encourage them to do more sport (62%) and that the Olympics Games and Paralympic Games are a great way to learn about a lot of things (57%).
- Six in ten pupils and students thought involvement in sports and other activities connected to the London 2012 Games would improve young peoples' confidence and communication skills (62%, a great deal/ quite a lot), although fewer thought it would have this effect on them personally (52%).
- Two thirds of pupils and students thought involvement would improve what young people feel they can do and achieve either a great deal or quite a lot (67%). Again, this was less when applied to the pupil themselves (59%).

"It inspires you"
(Student, FE college)

"...it's good to encourage young people to be more sporty instead of just sit down and watch TV"
(Pupil, secondary school)

