

Autumn Competition Review 2017/2018



This is the start of the second year for Edsential competitions and it is great to see that events on offer have grown in popularity. As we finished off last year, we aimed to use the word “competition” lightly - some events were competitive; the majority were delivered with a festival approach where participation and ‘personal bests’ were more important than the overall outcome.

We offered 17 different events to primary schools throughout the last year. This year, this number had grown to 27 – with events covering 18 different sports and being delivered at 12 different venues on the Wirral.

The autumn term has been very busy with 8 events being delivered covering 7 different sports. This clearly shows the wide variety of events that are on offer from Edsential. It was also great to see the start of the Edsential Netball League, with Ladymount and Our Lady of Pity hosting the first 2 rounds. The league continues after Christmas (schools can still enter the league in the later rounds by emailing Mike.smethurst@edsential.co.uk).

As well as the Netball league, we developed the fantastic links already established with Birkenhead Park Rugby Club and it was also great to have Rock Ferry, St Joseph’s and Well Lane Primary schools deliver some great events.

The table below shows the impact of the Edsential events this term:

No of events	No of teams	No of participants	No of new participants	No of parents spectating
8	44	346	296	109



Edsential 'competitions & events' cater for all abilities and it is great to see so many new participants from schools. We also promote parental involvement at all competitions. I firmly believe if parents show an interest in an event their son or daughter is taking part in their support in maintaining their interest in PE and School sport is paramount.

I also produced an online survey for teachers to complete and the number of responses was excellent (thank you!). Feedback from schools is paramount in developing Edsential's 'competitions & events' sector.

Feedback from the survey are as follows:

1. How would you rate the Edsential competitions you have taken part in? (1 – 5 stars) 5 stars being excellent

Out of all the responses the **average** rating was **4.73!** One response said that the events were good with all other responses saying that the events are excellent. Within the competitions delivered high quality is at the forefront of the delivery ensuring that all participants have a positive experience.

2. What type of pupils have you identified for Edsential competitions?

Over **85%** of responses state that they **identify** pupils who are **new** to school sport and have never represented their school before. The remaining responses state that they identify **targeted groups** e.g. Pupil Premium student. No schools identify more able pupils. Edsential events are open to all abilities, but they are very much focused on engaging the disengaged and it is great to see all schools targeting the right pupil's to represent their school.

3. Do you believe the Edsential competitions have had a positive effect to the pupils back in their school environment?

92% of responses believe that the Edsential competitions have a **positive effect** on their pupils back in school. At all of the events delivered participation, fun, engagement and personal development is at the forefront of events.

4. What makes Edsential competitions different than other competitions on offer?

"They are run in a very friendly way. You don't have to worry about not fielding a strong team. There is coaching along the way so everyone enjoys and can take part at their level"

"Mike creates a relaxed atmosphere at the competitions and really accommodates for all abilities."

"The inclusive nature – the taking part and enjoyment is important and it doesn't matter if you have had any previous experience of the game."

"The opportunity to enter children who haven't played before, knowing they will still have a positive experience due to the way Mike runs the competitions"

The comments above are just a few of the positive comments from teachers. Some of the key words taken out of the comments are; **participation, fun, positive experience, relaxed atmosphere.** All of which are centre to Edsential events.



5. Do you have any additional comments regarding Edsential Competitions?

“Well done Mike for providing an excellent alternative to giving children competitive opportunities”

“Thank you for running them. Our children really enjoyed the Handball afternoon. One little girl who is very shy couldn't wait to tell her mum how well she had done. It has really boosted her confidence”

A few schools also mentioned about certificates at events to reward the children's attitude and effort during the events. This is something that is already being discussed for the New Year.

Up and coming events:

The spring term is just as busy at the autumn term with 8 events on offer to schools. The events are as follows:

Event	Date	Venue	Time
Boccia	15 th January	St Paul's primary	3.30 – 4.30pm
Years 1 & 2 Athletics	22 nd January	St Anne's primary	3.30 – 4.30pm
Years 3 & 4 Dodgeball	29 th January	Rock Ferry primary	1 – 3pm
Years 5 & 6 Netball	5 th February	Oval Sports Centre	3 – 5pm
KS1&2 Dance Festival	26 th February	St Anne's primary	1 – 3pm
Years 3 & 4 Gymnastics	5 th March	St Joseph's primary	1 – 3pm
KS2 Tri-golf	12 th March	St Paul's primary	1 – 3pm
KS1&KS2 Karate festival	19 th March	Oval Sports Centre	4 – 5pm

If you wish any further information or wish to enter any of the events in the spring term please let me know.

Thank you for your continued support this year - I truly believe that the Edsential events have had a positive impact on your pupil's health and wellbeing.

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