



# (Step into Sport) Information sheet

## What is it?

TOP Link encourages secondary school students to organise and run festivals of sport or dance for partner primary or special school pupils.

It is designed to enhance and improve links between primary and secondary schools.

TOP Link is also part of the Step into Sport programme that is designed to recruit, train, deploy and support young sports leaders.

## How does it work?

The young people work in teams of four to plan, organise and stage a festival of sport or dance. This will be in partnership with primary schools and involve sports development officers and community sport providers as necessary.

The plan is submitted to the LEA/ TOP Link co-ordinator who endorses their proposal and submits the schools details to the Youth Sport Trust.

All schools within a local education authority which participates will be able to send their student management team to a one-day leadership conference at a higher education institution (HEI) in their region.

They then organise and stage the festivals of sport or dance for their local primary or special schools, usually in the summer term

The 2004 TOP Link programme will be linked with the Olympic Games in Athens as part of a partnership with the British Olympic Foundation.

## Who is it for?

TOP Link is for young people aged 14 to 16 years in schools.

Inclusion of **all** young people is a priority.

TOP Link is closely linked to existing leadership work in schools, e.g. Junior Sports Leader Award (JSLA)/ Community Sports Leader Award (CSLA).

## What are the benefits?

- Physical education leading the way within a wider education agenda:
  - active citizenship
  - key skills.
- Improved links between primary and secondary schools.
- Festivals for primary school children.
- Support for curricular and extra-curricular provision for primary school children.
- Further development and deployment of young leaders.
- Accreditation for young people.
- Professional development opportunities for staff.
- Media profile.

For further information on how to access the TOP programmes telephone the Youth Sport Trust on 01509 226600 or visit [www.youthsporttrust.org](http://www.youthsporttrust.org)

