



Insight driving innovation and impact

School Games Mark Framework Evaluation: Research Brief

February 2022

Believing in every child's future

Contents

Introduction	1
About the Project.....	1
Delivery milestones	1
Aims and Objectives of Research	1
Methodology.....	2
Research Deliverables	2
Key Contacts.....	3
Research Timescales.....	3
Research Budget	3
The Bidding Process	4
Selection Process	4
Timetable	4
Selection Criteria.....	4
Proposal Requirements	4
Further Information	5
Proposal Submission	5

Introduction

The Youth Sport Trust (YST) is a national children's charity passionate about creating a future where every child enjoys the life-changing benefits that come from play and sport. We are on a mission to pioneer new ways of using sport to improve children's wellbeing and give them a brighter future.

Our [2018-2022 strategy](#) sets out how we will harness the power of sport, play and physical activity to tackle the challenges of a new generation. For more information about our organisation, please visit our website: www.youthsporttrust.org.

The YST is seeking to appoint an external research organisation to evaluate the School Games Mark Framework.

This document sets out the research requirements for the evaluation.

About the Project

The School Games Mark is a Government led award scheme launched in 2012 to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and the community.

The School Games Mark Framework has evolved over the past few years in light of the COVID-19 pandemic into a development tool for self-reflection. The framework aims to support schools and other educational establishments to reflect on their involvement in the School Games and how their offer fits with the School Games Outcomes.

Delivery milestones

The School Games Mark application window will be live from 4th May 2022 until 27th July 2022.

Any changes to the framework as a result of this research will be implemented during August 2022 with a launch date of the new framework in September 2022.

Aims and Objectives of Research

Aim: To consult with users on their experiences of the School Games Mark Framework and identify areas for development.

The key research questions are:

- What do schools value about the School Games Mark Framework?
- How do schools use the School Games Mark Framework?
- What do schools need most from the School Games Mark Framework?
- How does the framework support their influencing and engagement with key stakeholders e.g. School Governors, Senior Leadership Team?
- What do users think about the recent changes to the School Games Mark Framework?

- How do users see the School Games Mark Framework in the future?
- What works well about the current School Games Mark Framework?
- What are the key barriers a school may experience to stop them from using the framework?
- What is the impact users see from the Framework? Key examples of how the framework has influenced change in schools.
- What factors need to be in place to ensure the sustainability of engagement with the School Games Mark Framework?
- What is stopping Secondary schools from engaging in volume – what do we need to do so that it holds value to all schools?

Methodology

The YST would like researchers to propose a methodology that best meets our needs. However, we have outlined a number of key methodological considerations:

- Consultation activities with key stakeholders, especially schools and School Games Organisers. Including those who have used the framework for consecutive years.
- A focus on both quantitative and qualitative research methods. Analysis of the current School Games Mark data could be included for contextual purposes.
- Case studies examples of how schools have used the School Games Mark Framework. These should be available as standalone documents but also integrated into the main report structure. We welcome suggestions as to how the experiences of young people can be gathered and showcased in creative ways.
- The YST will make school contact details available to the successful researcher, and any additional data / information that would help the evaluation project.

Research Deliverables

The following deliverables are required from this research project:

1. **Inception note:** Following the inception meeting, a full research methodology, with associated timescales and research tools.
2. **Monthly progress updates:** Regular updates on progress and any challenges/risks in the project.
3. **Interim presentation / slide deck (May 2022):** A verbal presentation to focus on the activity to date.
4. **Final report (July 2022):** The YST would like one final report that integrates all sources of evidence and provides us with an understanding of the outcomes achieved, and recommendations to inform future delivery (maximum of 20 pages). There will be one single report, but we would value individual sections that look in more detail at each of the component parts. The report should be accompanied by a two-page executive summary and where appropriate, we would welcome the integration of visual diagrams and infographics to help present the findings.

5. **Data files:** Any survey data files should be made available, in an appropriate format.

Further guidance on the report content, style and structure will be given to the successful organisation at the inception meeting.

Key Contacts

The research project would be overseen by Lucy Ellis, Research and Insight Specialist, with additional support from Clare Warburton, Development Manager for Programme Implementation.

Research Timescales

The timescales for the research project are detailed in the following table.

MILESTONE	DATE
Inception Meeting	8 th March 2022
Inception Note	March 2022
Interim Presentation	May 2022
Final Report	Friday 29 th July 2022

Research Budget

The total budget for the research project is **£10,000** (inclusive of expenses and VAT, if applicable).

Successful contractors will be paid against the following terms:

- 10% on a signed contract.
- 40% upon satisfactory completion of the interim report.
- 50% upon satisfactory completion of the final report.

The Bidding Process

Selection Process

Organisations are required to submit written proposals. From this the successful organisation will be selected.

Timetable

MILESTONE	DATE
Confirmation of intent to propose	14 th February
Deadline for proposals	25 th February
Successful organisation notified	Monday 7 th March
Inception meeting	Tuesday 8 th March
Contract signed / first invoice received	March 2022

Selection Criteria

Proposals will be judged on the following criteria:

- Methodology, including a good understanding of the research requirements.
- Experience, particularly in relation to evaluation, young people, and inclusion.
- Value for money.

Proposal Requirements

You are invited to submit a written proposal which clearly outlines how you would meet the requirements laid out in this brief. Your proposal should be a maximum of 10 A4 pages (minimum font 11). CV's, along with any other relevant information can be provided in appendices.

As a minimum, the following elements should be included in your proposal:

- Details of the proposed methodology.
- A brief overview of your organisation's experience, including examples of similar research projects you have delivered.
- Details of the team who will be working on the research, including their role, previous experience and DBS status if applicable.
- Arrangements for managing the research and quality assuring the deliverables.
- Timetable for delivering the research.

- A breakdown of costs for undertaking the research, including a breakdown of time and costs per activity and per team member.

Further Information

Any questions you have which will help support the development of your proposals and relate to the project being evaluated should be emailed to research@youthsporttrust.org by the 21st February 2022.

Responses to queries will be emailed to all interested organisations.

Proposal Submission

Please confirm your intent to submit a proposal by 14th February. Your final proposal should be emailed to research@youthsporttrust.org and received no later than close of play on the 25th February.

YST RESEARCH

The Youth Sport Trust (YST) is a national children's charity passionate about creating a future where every child enjoys the life-changing benefits that come from play and sport. YST Research offers research, analysis, insight and evaluation services to organisations with an interest in the wider children and young people's sector. Our research expertise is focussed on improving the wellbeing of children and young people through sport and physical activity.

Our specialisms include:

- Education, PE and school sport
- Community sport / clubs
- Early years settings
- Life skills and employability
- Activism and volunteering
- Health (physical, social and emotional)

For our latest research findings, visit

<https://www.youthsporttrust.org/news-insight/research>

By working with us, you are supporting us to achieve our mission to improve children's lives and their future.



Youth Sport Trust
SportPark
Loughborough University
3 Oakwood Drive
Loughborough
Leicestershire
LE11 3QF

01509 226600
research@youthsporttrust.org
www.youthsporttrust.org



Registered Charity Number 1086915
Registered Company Number 4180163