

Frequently Asked Questions ('ASF – Nearly There')

Accreditation Process	
What is the best way to send PowerPoint as it is very big file with videos?	<p>Your PPT/slideshow must be emailed to Majella eolas@activeschoolflag.ie at the same time that you submit your application form. We recommend using www.wetransfer.com <i>Please remember to include your school roll number in the subject line!</i></p> <p>Your application can only be forwarded for screening when accompanied by the PPT/slideshow or if you have an ASF section on your school website.</p>
Our webpage isn't broken down into 4 sections, I'm panicking now!	<p>Don't worry! It is important for screening that all of the ASF information/evidence is in the one place, and it's a lot easier if organised under the 4 headings of the application form.</p> <p>If all the information is on the one page, and we can easily find it, that will be fine this year.</p>
Can we use Facebook or Twitter instead of a school website?	<p>Unfortunately, not. The person screening your application must be able to see all of your evidence in one place, organised under the 4 headings of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Education • Physical Activity • Partnerships • Active School Week
How many teachers can be on the accreditation phone call?	<p>We're trying to keep this as simple as possible and conscious that calls will, in most instances, be <i>during school time</i>. So just one coordinator is required for the call.</p> <p>If a second teacher is free and wants to join in the call, they are more than welcome.</p>
We are a 2-teacher school so supervision during the day is very problematic. Can we have our call outside school hours?	<p>Please flag this in your application and we will do our very best to accommodate.</p>
I am technically a renewal school but the flag was awarded many years ago. Can my school apply as a new applicant instead of a renewal school?	<p>Yes – That would be our recommendation.</p> <p>Please email Majella eolas@activeschoolflag.ie with this request, making sure to include your roll number in the subject line, and she will help you out.</p>
What's the password for the ASF members Area?	<p>asf2020</p>

<p>Are there different criteria for special schools?</p>	<p>Special schools will see the same criteria on their application form as everyone but they are not obligatory, as we recognise that not all activities may be possible. If you would like to speak to an ASF development officer about the ASF process, please email eolas@activeschoolfag.ie (please include your roll number in the subject line) and we will arrange for someone to call you.</p>
<p>Physical Education</p>	
<p>We teach PAWS to every class level in June every year. Should we teach it at one class before submitting our application in May or does completing it in June every year suffice?</p>	<p>That's not necessary. If it is part of your annual plan for June, and this is not the first time that your school has taught Land PAWS, then that's fine.</p>
<p>A member of staff completed CPD in PE during 19/20. Will that suffice?</p>	<p>Members of staff have undertaken CPD in Physical Education during the past 12 months. New knowledge, ideas and resources have been shared out amongst staff members.</p> <p>Given the current Covid-circumstances <i>PE-focussed</i> CPD completed from September 2019 to present is acceptable, for applications received before June 2021.</p> <p>There were a lot of online CPD opportunities during 20/21, particularly in relation to teaching PE during Covid, and these will fulfil this criterion. Three CPD opportunities, scheduled before the end of April, have also been flagged in the main email.</p>
<p>Our whole school CPD was cancelled but members of staff have completed other CPD – Will that count?</p>	<p>Whole school CPD is the really valuable and is available from the PDST PE team, tailored to suit your school's needs. This year PDST support is being delivered remotely. The PDST PE team <i>may</i> still have the capacity to work with schools during term 3. If applying, please mention that you are working towards ASF. Apply for Support: School Support 2020/2021 PDST</p> <p>Individual <i>PE-focussed</i> CPD courses undertaken by members of staff will also fulfil this criterion. It is important that ideas, resources and supports are shared with colleagues so that the learning is disseminated across the whole school community.</p>
<p>Do the 'Move Well, Move Often' seminar days from 19/20 count if we apply before June? Or PE-related courses completed over summer?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes – If completed during summer 2020</p>
<p>Does the IPPEA 'Guidance on Teaching PE during Covid-19' webinar from September 2020 count for CPD?</p>	<p>Yes – It directly relates to the PE curriculum.</p>

Would attendance at a webinar organised by local Education centre and facilitated by member of PDST PE team suffice?	Yes – If directly related to the PE curriculum
Members of staff attended this year's IPPEA virtual conference in March 2020 – Does that suffice for CPD?	Yes – As content directly relates to the PE curriculum.
Would GAA-related or Bizzy Breaks webinars count?	<p>Members of staff have undertaken CPD in Physical Education during the past 12 months. New knowledge, ideas and resources have been shared out amongst staff members.</p> <p>This CPD, while really valuable, does not directly relate to the PE curriculum.</p> <p>The PDST PE team and the Irish Primary PE Association (IPPEA) are best placed to support schools with the delivery of their PE programmes. Agencies such as CARA are recommended to support Inclusive PE.</p>
Can you attach PE Plan as evidence as it includes strand timetable and class timetables for PE?	<p>Aside from schools wishing to submit PPTs or slideshows nothing else should be emailed, as the person screening your application will only have time to look at your application and website/PPT/slideshow.</p> <p>The Evidence Checklists provide <i>suggestions</i> about the type of evidence that your school could provide. You don't have to upload information relating to every single suggestion.</p>
Is the 'Move Well, Move Often' criterion only for renewal schools?	Yes
If we don't apply until the Autumn, can we use all our activities and evidence from school year 20/21?	<p>Yes</p> <p>But please remember that ASF activities such as the 'Active Break Every Day' challenge, the 'Run a Day' challenge and #ASW should take place every year, and become part of the annual school calendar.</p>
Physical Activity	
We did the 'Run a Day' challenge during the last school year. Is this ok for the application or do we need to do it again this year before applying?	<p>Every class completed the <i>Run a Day</i> challenge, as a whole school initiative, over a period of 4 weeks this year</p> <p>There are a few ASF activities that should take place every year, including the 'Active Break Every Day' and 'Run a Day' challenges and 'Active School Week'. So, it really depends on the part of the year that you submit your application.</p>
Can 'The Daily Mile' fulfil the 'Run a Day' criteria and the criteria of decreasing sedentary time?	<p>Every class completed the <i>Run a Day</i> challenge, as a whole school initiative, over a period of 4 weeks this year</p> <p>It is important for the 'Run a Day' challenge that <i>all classes</i> complete a run a day <i>over 4 weeks</i>. If this is the case with 'The Daily</p>

	Mile' programme in your school, then yes, it will fulfil both the running and the sedentary time criteria.
Can the 'Run around Ireland' challenge be used as your 'Run a Day' activity?	Every class completed the <i>Run a Day</i> challenge, as a whole school initiative, over a period of 4 weeks this year Yes. Schools can use whatever initiative they link for the 'Run a Day' challenge. ASF initiatives include 'Run Around Ireland, 'Run Around Europe' and 'Tour of Europe' (resources located on www.activeschoolflag.ie – Resources – Physical Activity section). The Daily Mile can also be used and schools are free to design their own running initiative (eg: 'Run Around Your County', 'Run to Lapland' etc.)
The 3 activities to reduce sedentary time, can they include active breaks and running initiatives?	Every class has agreed upon a set of 3, or more, actions to decrease sedentary time. Yes. Also use of the walkway/walkway challenges, standing breaks/active sitting and any activities that bring learning outdoors.
Partnerships	
Given that children have not been able to attend clubs for many months now do we have to do the 'What Clubs Are You In' survey?	Senior pupils conducted a 'What Club Are You In?' survey to find out about physical activity opportunities in the local community There were a lot of questions and comments about this in the CHAT on Monday. We had a team discussion after the webinar and have decided to add this to the non-compulsory criteria this year. You <u>must</u> tick 'yes' for this criterion in the online application form, otherwise it won't submit. In the ' Additional Information ' section for this criterion please reference the fact that a decision was made at the 'Nearly There' webinar to make this non-compulsory during 20/21. <i>Please note that this will return to being a compulsory criterion for applications screened during 21/22.</i>
Where can I get the contact details for Local Sports Partnerships, HSE Coordinators and Sports Inclusion Disability Officers.	You can find this information on the ASF website: Resources – Partnerships - Community section Partnerships Active School Flag
Does anyone have any advice on what to do if I cannot get in contact with the HSE representative in my school area?	Many organisations are under pressure this year due to Covid so please do try to make contact, as it's important for schools to link in with local support agencies, but don't worry if you do not get a response.
Where are the Pupil and Parent questionnaires?	You will find PDFs of the sample questionnaires on the ASF website: ASF Members Area – Questionnaires ASF Members Active School Flag They are also hyperlinked in the 'Nearly There' slideshow. Remember, these are <i>suggested</i> questions. You are free to adapt the questionnaire to suit your own school's needs.

Are the questionnaires only required for renewal schools?	Yes
If surveys were conducted in 2019/20, do they need to be conducted again this year?	No. The 19/20 surveys are fine.
Can we keep our first slogan or do we have to have a new slogan for renewal school?	<p>We worked together, as a school, to find and agree an ASF slogan</p> <p>If you are a renewal school it is good to find a new slogan every 3 years. It could be part of your #ASW21 programme to find a new slogan and it's an ideal ASF committee activity.</p> <p>Saying that, if you have a really strong slogan which your school community knows and loves, then it's fine to stick with that.</p>
Active School Week	
How many teacher challenges does there need to be? Do they have to be videos?	<p>Our school organises Teacher Challenges as part of the #ASW programme</p> <p>For #ASW21 we are promoting an 'Active Every Day' challenge which includes daily physical activity challenges set by the school for students. Some of these should be set by teachers. They don't necessarily have to be video challenges – they could be written out or demonstrated in school, for practise at home.</p> <p>You can mix these up with challenges from other people such as Olympian challenges, local hero challenges etc.</p> <p>Resources – Active School Week #ASW21 – Active School Week 2021 Active School Flag</p>
Can we get the local hero to send in a video and also set teacher/student challenges for #ASW21?	Yes – Good idea.
We plan to run our #ASW during June but we would like to apply before May 14 th to make sure that we have an accreditation call before the end of June. What are our options?	<p>You must have completed at least one #ASW21 programme before you submit your application.</p> <p>If your school ran an 'Active Home Week' programme last year, and you have evidence of this on your website, or in PPT/slideshow format, then go ahead and apply before May 14th as accreditor will be able to see evidence from last year to support your application this year.</p> <p>If you are a new applicant school and you have never organised an #ASW, then you do need to wait until you have completed your first #ASW before applying. It is important that you have #ASW evidence on your website.</p> <p>In all likelihood we should be able to arrange accreditation calls for schools that apply after May 14th, but we cannot guarantee it – so the sooner that you get your application in the better!</p>

Resources

<p>Do we also get a banner if we attended the 'Getting Started' workshop in September 2019 and today's 'Nearly There'?</p>	<p>Yes, if you are a renewal school.</p>
<p>Some of our walkway signs have been lost. Can we get replacement ones?</p>	<p>We have some extra walkway resource packs in stock. Please email your requirements to Rachel resources@activeschoolflag.ie, remembering to include your school roll number in the subject line. We will do our very best to accommodate your requests.</p>
<p>We don't have the official walkway signage. Is there any way that we could get it?</p>	<p>As above.</p>