

Primary school sport and physical activity programmes

2007 / 2008

International Fun in Team Athletics programme

In the 2007 / 2008 academic year, this programme was established to identify a baseline for fitness and motor skills of children in Offaly which can be used for future monitoring and comparisons with other localities both within Ireland and abroad.

Emma Bunworth, a fourth year student of Sport and Leisure at Tralee Institute of Technology undertook the International Fun in Team Athletics Research programme as part of her work experience module.

The research established a baseline for children's (primary school age) fitness and motor skills in Offaly. Of seven possible awards / rankings that could be achieved (gold, silver, bronze, blue, green, yellow and orange), 75% of the pupils at age nine ranked in the lowest two. Limited data from the United Kingdom placed Offaly below average scores in two primary schools, while the top performances in Offaly matched the average scores in an athletics club sampled in the United Kingdom.

Offaly Sports Partnership is very grateful to Emma for this comprehensive piece of work. We are also grateful to the eighteen schools and 727 pupils that participated in the research.