

## Questionnaire feedback: April/May 2026

(Survey open online from Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026 – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026)

Surveys completed	
Number of surveys completed	12

Roles responded <i>some people selected more than one role</i>	
Role	Number of responses
School ATSA rep (named in Directory)	6
School staff member (attended an ATSA event)	6
Event leader/organiser	3
Headteacher	2
School Governor	1
Community sports group member	1

## Stars (the things you really like about ATSA)

Stars
<p>*I think that ATSA is an incredible programme which gives children the opportunity to get involved in sports and take part in activities which they may not or never have an opportunity to do otherwise. It offers schools an amazing package that enhances the provision and provides children with new and exciting opportunities. It also allows children to experience competition in its natural form and gain skills in taking part and being a good sports person.</p> <p>*Communication and organising. It makes such an impact when navigating different students from different schools and a live show.</p> <p>*Communication about events, any changes etc have been well received and prompt.</p> <p>*Very well run organisation. Communication is very clear. It is very rare that an event needs to be cancelled.</p> <p>*The range of opportunities available to our children is phenomenal.</p> <p>*Broad selection of sporting and non-sporting links and opportunities.</p> <p>*Lots of opportunities for children to access a range of different sports.</p> <p>*Vast range of opportunities.</p> <p>*Offers a variety of sporting activities.</p> <p>*ATSA is totally inclusive.</p> <p>*Brings children together to enjoy sport and learn important life skills. Sport isn't just about winning and losing it supports children with social skills, resilience etc and ATSA gives a great platform for this.</p> <p>*Competitive events as opposed to the School Games programme which has focused more on participatory style events.</p> <p>*There is a wide range of opportunities in the ATSA calendar. This should enable individual schools to provide as many different children as possible with the experience of representing their school.</p> <p>*Provides amazing opportunities for young people to participate in a range of events.</p> <p>*ATSA continues to be reflective, responding well to change and incorporating suggestions from member schools. The recent proposals of a name change to reflect the widened offer of events is a successful example.</p> <p>*The enthusiasm for the work we are providing and validation of the impact it has on young people.</p> <p>*The annual directory that is produced at the start of each year is well organised and it is easy to plan for events across the year.</p> <p>*I love the inclusive events such as kurling or the arts exhibition which provide opportunities for children who aren't sporty.</p> <p>*Variety of opportunities the children have on offer are fantastic, especially engaging the SEND children with the events at Rowan Tree.</p> <p>*Encouraged to offer the opportunities to as many children as possible.</p> <p>*It's inclusive – the SEN events have been great.</p> <p>*Accessible for all children – Access to Success events</p> <p>*It never stays still there's always something new happening and new partners joining.</p> <p>*It supports pupils with SEND to take part and compete at their level in a supportive and inclusive way.</p> <p>*Opportunities for our SEND children.</p> <p>*Strong community links have been formed and maintained over many years. The Leigh Harriers cross country morning provides a Borough wide, annual opportunity for schools to come together. It was really pleasing to speak with parents from a range of non-ATSA schools who wanted to pass on their positive view of the event.</p> <p>*Connecting schools from the area - bringing everyone together.</p> <p>*The pictures taken during each event and shared on Facebook is a useful way to show both involvement, engagement and opportunity.</p> <p>*The consistency in the way events are ran, managed and refereed. I think ATSA is incredible! I have worked in a number of different schools and authorities and I have never seen anything that comes close to what ATSA provides for our young people.</p> <p>*Engaging all the schools is an amazing achievement and the schools buy into ATSA.</p> <p>*Geographic events with playoffs.</p>

### Wishes (ways that you think we could improve ATSA)

Wish	ATSA response
<p>Our school tries hard to support ATSA and give our children opportunities to take part in a variety of activities – often ones they wouldn't experience without it as most of our parents are low income families and therefore couldn't afford extra-curricular activities outside of school. It seems unfair to have a blanket policy where you can't enter an event or a taster because you pulled out last year due to extenuating circumstances. We are a 1 form entry school and our PE lead is a full-time teacher. We don't have additional members of staff or extra bodies in school meaning if a member of staff is ill, we can't cover the event without leaving a class unattended. We have also been let down by the bus company a couple of times – something that is out of our control.</p>	<p><i>These four wishes are all linked around the same ATSA protocol, which has been in place since September 2023. The protocol states:</i></p> <p><b><i>-should a school 'drop-out' of an ATSA event once the entry survey is closed or should a school fail to turn up for an event they have committed to attend, then they will not be permitted to enter the same event next year. This includes football fixtures. ATSA reserve the right to enforce this 'policy' whatever reason is provided.</i></b></p> <p><i>It is interesting how 'both' perspectives are covered within the wishes submitted. We have the views of schools, with limited resources, working hard to attend as many ATSA events as possible. There is also the view of an organiser, giving up their own time to have everything in place to ensure an event will run smoothly and effectively based on a given number of schools/children expected.</i></p> <p><i>There was no feedback submitted from any of our community groups linked to this protocol. However, I did recently see the impact of a school not attending an ATSA event 'live' at The Pelican Centre. I saw the rushed administrative changes that had to take place, which then impacted on the very nature of the whole event. More recently, an event organiser, with full-time teaching commitments, was informed of a withdrawal from an event very late on a Friday. To his credit, he successfully re-organised fixtures on the Monday morning, for the afternoon event...during SATs week! However, this should not be the case as there is a danger we may lose valuable school staff volunteers like this.</i></p> <p><i>I am aware that being adaptable is not just an inherent part of sport, it is part of life. Look at life in a school: there is the day when a staff member may be absent and a class may need covering or a time when a class cannot use the hall in their usual slot as there is a visitor to school. I realise that being adaptable is important, but with ATSA, there is something else that, for me, is more crucial to the overall strategic and operational success, and that is:</i></p> <p><i>...the mental health and well-being of the unpaid school staff who volunteer to give up their own time to: organise fixtures, have resources in place, source officials and then take time to be present at events (usually beyond the school day, in their own time).</i></p> <p><b><i>Without the unpaid school staff volunteering to do this...there would be no ATSA!</i></b></p> <p><i>With ATSA, you, as ATSA representatives, are responsible for the children and parents/carers in your school. My responsibility is to make sure that ATSA events take place through providing support to the unpaid school staff volunteers. It is also crucial that I maintain positive relationships with community groups so that events continue to be in place. What is not covered in this survey response is the years of feedback I have received from these groups with regards to schools not turning up over the years. I have had to work hard behind the scenes to maintain positive relationships with these stakeholders.</i></p> <p><i>Schools are currently named publicly on the survey regarding none attendance so that they remember not to take part...as one school admitted to me that they do not pay much attention to the detail of each survey as they know which events they will/will not be entering. Not having this in place would create additional work for me.</i></p> <p><i>The experience of planning and preparing an ATSA event...to then have a school drop out is not pleasant. There does need to be something in place to avoid this and I am open to suggestions around this so as to meet the needs of all stakeholders.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wish</b></p> <p>Offer further consideration if a school does not attend before issuing a ban from the next year – there may be some genuine reason why they could not attend and if this is the case, it is the children that miss out.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wish</b></p> <p>If schools can no longer come to an event then instead of just not turning up give the lead an email or the school a quick ring so that the timetable can be quickly changed. Most weeks I do a timetable for the games and have to quickly change it or make it up as I go along which then isn't as organised as it should be. We all know things can happen last minute but a quick email or phone call would be really appreciated.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wish</b></p> <p>Refrain from naming schools publicly regarding none attendance.</p>	

Wish	ATSA response
<p>Communication for non-sporting events to go directly to the appropriate leads within each school rather than the P.E lead e.g Music events to a registered music rep at each school.</p>	<p><i>As the range of ATSA events has evolved over the years, there are now more 'non-sporting' events on offer. The ATSA email system has not evolved at the same rate and so currently all ATSA emails are sent to the ATSA representative from each school. Due to the nature of ATSA's foundation, that person is most likely the PE Leader.</i></p> <p><i>We need to remember that, moving forward, the large majority of ATSA events will still be sports based.</i></p> <p><i>To improve our communication systems, as well as collating the names of the ATSA Sports representative from each school, collating the names and email addresses of other subject leaders is currently being considered. However, some caution is needed with this as we could end up with a more complicated system than necessary when we look into the names and email addresses we collate in more detail. We could end up collecting the names of the:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>-PE Leader as there are lots of Sports Events.</i></li> <li><i>-Art Leader as there is an Art Exhibition.</i></li> <li><i>-Music Leader as there is the 'Let's Play' Event and Singing Event.</i></li> <li><i>-Maths Leader as there is the Times Tables Event.</i></li> <li><i>-English Leader as there are Poetry and Spelling Events.</i></li> <li><i>-Computing Leader for Filmmaking Event (see next wish response).</i></li> <li><i>-PSHE leader for the Road Safety Event.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>You can see how things can easily spiral out of control! We then would also need to consider:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>-Who is the 'Chess Leader' in each school?</i></li> <li><i>-Who do we contact over the Comedy Event?</i></li> </ul> <p><i>With communication on this scale, it is usually best to have one person as a direct point of contact. It may therefore be that we remain with the system of there being one person from each school who is the ATSA representative. However, due to the changing nature of ATSA, schools could be asked to carefully consider who this person is for 2026 – 2027.</i></p> <p><i>Whilst a decision is made about our future approaches with this and as you know your schools and the expertise of the people within them better than me, please could you take the approach that has served me well over the years and takes seconds to do...and that is...forward the email on to the person you deem most appropriate in your school!</i></p>
Wish	ATSA response
<p>This is purely selfish of me but I would love the schools to embrace film making and all the different opportunities within that industry.</p>	<p><i>The first ever ATSA Filmmaking event took place in June 2024...unfortunately, it was also the last!</i></p> <p><i>When this event was introduced, it was explained that the films submitted from schools would be premiered in a real cinema and that the winning school would receive a top of the range camcorder too!</i></p> <p><i>With these incentives on offer, I believed that there would be more than the three schools taking part.</i></p> <p><i>I also believed that given the increased amount of filming involved with social media platforms used by children these days, that there would be a high level of interest in this area.</i></p> <p><i>We will continue to plan for and include the ATSA Filmmaking Event and hope that more schools embrace this unique event.</i></p>

Wish	ATSA response
<p>Feedback from people attending the football fixtures this year is that they have been hard work as they have lasted a long period of time. They personally don't feel playing just one game a week has worked and would much rather play two games each night reducing the number of weeks it falls over.</p>	<p><i>I agree that the football leagues have lasted a long time this year, especially in Atherton.</i></p> <p><i>As my role as Headteacher evolves, I am looking for someone to come forward to arrange the football fixtures for all the ATSA football leagues for 2026 – 2027.</i></p> <p><i>If anyone feels that they could take a lead on this, arranging fixtures to meet the needs of all schools, then please let me know.</i></p>
Wish	ATSA response
<p>More solidified links with secondary pupils providing leadership and refereeing. Appreciate that this is on the secondary staff but it would assist with ATSA staff being able to focus on their own schools' performance than referee.</p>	<p><i>Strong links with our local secondary schools have existed since ATSA was founded in 2011. Young people have regularly been used to support several of our events over the years.</i></p> <p><i>With the football leagues, weekly support is needed. I can understand the challenge with asking young people to remain at school to support the ATSA Football Leagues, given that the school day at most local secondary schools ends around 3pm and ATSA matches only start at 3:45pm. I am sure we are all grateful to those who remain on site to support ATSA. We will continue to work with our local secondary schools with this.</i></p>
Wish	ATSA response
<p>Look at live sporting event access again.</p>	<p><i>We are continually looking for opportunities to take groups of children across the ATSA network to watch a live sports event. Over the years, events we have attended as a group include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>*Gymnastics, as part of the British Gymnastics Championships, in Liverpool in 2012</i></li> <li><i>*Rugby League, as part of the Rugby League World Cup, in Leigh, in 2013</i></li> <li><i>*Athletics, as part of the British Athletics Championships, in Birmingham in 2018</i></li> <li><i>*Cycling, as part of the National Track Championships, in Manchester, in 2019</i></li> <li><i>*Netball, as part of the Netball World Cup, in Liverpool, in 2019</i></li> <li><i>*Rugby League, as part of the Rugby League World Cup, in Leigh, in 2022</i></li> </ul> <p><i>As you can see from the above events, we look to attend 'high profile' events that children may not ordinarily attend.</i></p> <p><i>Please let me know if you know of any upcoming live sports events (of the nature above) that we could attend collectively and I will look into organising for our schools to attend.</i></p>
Wish	ATSA response
<p>More comedy? Ha ha</p>	<p><i>The ATSA Comedy Workshops and ATSA Comedy Showcase Performance took place for the first time during the Autumn Term in 2025. I am sure that everyone involved with these events will agree that they were fantastic!</i></p> <p><i>We are aiming to schedule in these events, for the same time of year in 2026. I am already looking forward to these events. However, I agree with you...we would love for there to be more comedy too! Ha ha!</i></p> <p><i>We are always open to new ideas and events and so if you think of any other ways that we could develop further 'comedy' opportunities into the ATSA timetable then please let me know. I look forward to hearing from you.</i></p>
Wish	ATSA response
<p>There have been some great new additions to the ATSA calendar this year, notably in the Arts, so I hope they can be maintained and supported in the future.</p>	<p><i>Many thanks for your positive feedback. The re-brand of ATSA to 'Atherton and Tyldesley Sports and Arts' with a strapline of 'Friendship through sports, arts and community' should ensure that the wide range of events now on offer through ATSA should continue for years to come.</i></p>

*M. Grogan*

Mr M Grogan, Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026