

Questionnaire feedback: April/May 2024

(Survey open online from Tuesday 16th April – Friday 3rd May 2024)

Surveys competed	
Number of surveys completed	11

*Roles responded	
Role	Number of responses
School ATSA rep (named in Directory)	6
School staff member (attended an ATSA event)	5
Event leader/organiser	2
Headteacher	0
School Governor	2
Community sports group member	2

*some people selected more than one role

Stars (the things you really like about ATSA)

Stars
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *A leadership commitment to constantly develop it by offering opportunities during the year that are new to ATSA whilst maintaining the established events and leagues. *Offers a range of sports/competitions and activities some of which the children are new to. *Range of events offered across a number of sports and other subjects. *The range of sporting opportunities that it provides for children. *Taking a wider opportunities view of competition and presentation is increasing participation and hopefully engaging additional children chosen by schools. *The balance of competitive sporting events and taster sessions. *Variety of sports and opportunities. *Range of sports and competitions/events. *There is a variety of events. *Broadening out the range excellent! *The fact that the events are becoming more broad to include things like film making, spelling, road safety etc which ensures access for all. *Organising a variety of sports for the children including sports that they would not normally be involved in. *The organisation of the yearly events. All dates booked well in advance so schools can sort/arrange diary. *Events throughout the year they are spread out. *Always up-to-date information. *Communication - always good communication between schools. Ease of entering via surveys felt that the ATSA group was easier to follow this year. *Opportunities to collaborate with other schools and for pupils to engage with each other across schools. *Opportunities - availability of what is on offer for children to access of all ability levels. *Extra-curricula activities for those who might not normally have opportunity. *The first thing I like about ATSA is that it brings the community of Atherton and Tyldesley together to develop friendship through sport. *Links well with other schools and builds a community feel as the same schools take part in the events. *The second thing I like about ATSA is that the events are well organised and there are lots of opportunities for schools across the borough to participate in these events. *I think the inclusiveness is the most important part giving every pupil an opportunity to partake. *Inclusive of all pupils. *The third thing I like about ATSA is that it reaches out to all children including SEND, EAL, Reception to Year 6 and many more. *Inclusive to all. *Has the children at the 'heart' of everything. *The use of survey for entering events is a lot more efficient. *Providing a good forum for professional development eg. through subject leader meetings, organising an event and sharing information via the What's App group. *Good relationships between staff from different schools. *Connection with community clubs and pathways to join those clubs.

Wishes (ways that you think we could improve ATSA)

Wish	ATSA response
<p>I personally would like to see more events for KS1 - The Sportshall Athletics at FLHS is really good and the children really enjoyed it.</p>	<p><i>The KS1 Sportshall Athletics is a great event. I think what makes this event stand out more than the other KS1 events is the atmosphere that is created within the sportshall at FLHS. For most of the children, this is their first experience of being part of a team with eleven other children, all cheering and supporting each other.</i></p> <p><i>Currently, the 2024/2025 ATSA offer will be made up of 102 events. In terms of areas of school, these events can be broken down to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>-5 EYFS events</i> <i>-22 KS1 event (including All Sports Holiday Provision)</i> <i>-70 KS2 events</i> <i>-5 adult events</i> <p><i>These 102 events all take place over 200 days (190 school days and 10 half term days). Therefore, I agree that there could be more KS1 events, but feel we may have a capacity issues if we are to offer any additional events.</i></p> <p><i>As opposed to adding further events to the ATSA offer, could some of our current KS2 events be changed to be KS1 events?</i></p> <p><i>It would be great if whoever provided this feedback could contact me privately to discuss any firmer ideas to enhance our KS1 provision and I can certainly look at how events can be amended within our overall offer.</i></p>
Wish	ATSA response
<p>Also when we enter a competition can we not do the running order/fixtures either live (on-line) prior to the event or at the beginning of the events?</p>	<p><i>In terms of this response, I am of the understanding that you are asking us to consider if we could allocate the fixtures for competitions via Teams/Zoom, or at the start of an event, with all staff present?</i></p> <p><i>The current ATSA protocol for an ATSA event organiser states:</i></p> <p><i>-that all fixtures are sent out to participating schools at least one week before an event takes place.</i></p> <p><i>The 'post ATSA survey' communication to event organisers allows sufficient time for this protocol to be met. If I am being honest, not all event organisers do circulate fixtures a week before an event. I have not necessarily enforced this protocol. There are additional demands on schools and so I suppose we may need to amend this?</i></p> <p><i>I know how different event organisers use different ways of organising fixtures for their events. When sorting the fixtures for the four ATSA football leagues, I simply use the fixtures from the previous year as a starting point. With events I organised that involved schools being in groups, I would have our School Business Manager draw the teams for each group. I know how some people simply use the order of schools on the list they receive from the survey (which is the order surveys were completed).</i></p> <p><i>I feel that setting up an 'online' meeting to organise fixtures would be an additional task that may put people off organising an event. If fixtures were to be 'drawn' live, when would this be? Would people really 'tune in'? What if this was on a staff meeting night?</i></p> <p><i>All schools arriving for the published start time of an event remains a challenge and so fixtures being organised at the beginning of an event would take up additional time, which would then impact on the time allocated for children being active at the event.</i></p> <p><i>Maybe we need to look at the 'one week before an event' protocol, however, if we are trusting school staff to organise events, then I feel we have to trust them to organise the fixtures.</i></p>

Wish	ATSA response
<p>Some children have mentioned about competitions in other sports like tennis, badminton or a roller skating event.</p>	<p><i>I continue to make contact with community providers who I believe could support the ATSA offer. However, if I do not receive a response, I do not continue any correspondence as much as I may have done in the past.</i></p> <p><i>In terms of the events you have mentioned:</i></p> <p><i>-Our Tennis Taster Session takes place in the Summer Term and is usually poorly attended. Would having a competition increase attendance at this event? We could change the date of the Tennis Taster Session to the start of June and then have an ATSA Tennis Competition later in the term (like we do with the ATSA Cycle Speedway events). I have contacted Tyldesley Tennis Club and asked them about the possibility of this for next year.</i></p> <p><i>-In 2018, we had a series of 'In-line roller hockey' sessions at Atherton Roller Rink. These sessions took place as funding was secured by the Roller Rink to have a coach lead the sessions. I will make contact with the Roller Rink to see if there is a possibility of these sessions taking place again.</i></p> <p><i>-A Badminton Taster Session could take place at either Atherton High School or Fred Longworth High School in the Autumn Term. I have contacted both Mr Leyland and Mr Gregory about the possibility of a session taking place at their school, with a 'qualified' staff member to lead.</i></p> <p><i>Any new events will be added to the 2024/2025 ATSA Directory that will be sent to schools in September 2024.</i></p> <p><i>Should you have any new (or existing) staff members who would like to contribute to the ATSA offer, then please let me know.</i></p>
Wish	ATSA response
<p>At some competitive events, there does seem to be times when rules are possibly not adhered to as much as they could be which can sometimes be a bit difficult for the children to accept. Some of this does come from the adults who are with the schools and is something that I feel needs to be considered in the spirit of fair play. This is not an ATSA issue as such but something which I feel all schools could consider and agree to before events begin. There is sometimes a lot of pressure on the high school children acting as referees when they are not particularly 'helped' by the members of staff who are with the schools. There have been cases where adults have been so absorbed in their own children that they have hindered other schools' children's performance eg jumping in their lane when running. We feel that encouraging honesty is important and that comes from the adults supporting the children.</p>	<p>The final comment in your feedback provides an appropriate starting point for this response because for me, EVERYTHING starts and finishes with the adult who is supporting the children, in any context!</p> <p>At an ATSA event, the role of the adult with your children has many dimensions. They need to look after the children and ensure they are representing the school in the correct manner, in line with the 'Friendship through Sport' ethos. Staff also need to be 'pro-active' with their own parents/carers ensuring their behaviour is in line with the ATSA Code of Conduct for spectators – see page 39 of the current ATSA Directory.</p> <p>We all have a responsibility to act as role models for all the children at ATSA events – see page 38 of the current ATSA Directory for the responsibilities of school representatives. One thing mentioned on this page is how staff members should also not question the officials. Staff should in fact be supporting them, especially if the officials are young people. With current Premier League referees earning £70,000 a year, we should be doing everything we can to promote officiating as a 'healthy' career option.</p> <p>If you are at an event and you feel that there has been something occur that is not within the 'spirit of ATSA', then please raise this with the event organiser at the event. This means that it can be dealt with 'in the moment'.</p>

Wish	ATSA response
<p>For the ATSA Sports Weekend, could there be a variety of venues where children each year participate in different events?</p>	<p><i>This year the 9th ATSA Sports Weekend will take place at Low Bank Ground. What is most pleasing about this event is that it stemmed from an idea many years ago and became a reality in July 2014. The idea for this event came when I was at Hinning House with a group of children. I shared my idea with the group leader I was with at the time, Dave Harvey, and he very much supported me in turning this idea into a reality.</i></p> <p><i>Using the established relationships in place at the time, the original plan was to hold the event at Hinning House. The number of schools that wanted to take part in the first Sports Weekend meant that we had no choice but to amend our plan and have the event at Low Bank Ground.</i></p> <p><i>A few years ago there was an uncertain future for both Hinning House and Low Bank Ground and in July 2021, as the COVID-19 pandemic gripped the world, we did look towards an alternative venue for the ATSA Sports Weekend. In the end, Low Bank Ground became available and the event took place there and has done ever since.</i></p> <p><i>Since 2021, there is an increased level of consistency and positive relationships in place with the staff and leaders at Low Bank Ground. We have risk assessments in place and, with a very busy ATSA calendar, have decided to remain with what is a familiar setting. In terms of the actual event, the weekend is made up of three main elements:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>-a cross country run on the Friday afternoon</i> <i>-a kayaking time trial event on Saturday</i> <i>-a timed orienteering event on Saturday</i></p> <p><i>As different children attend this event each year, the children who attend are experiencing the events, in that environment, for the first time. It may not be a unique experience for the staff, but it is for the children (and they are the main reason why we do these events).</i></p> <p><i>Given the timing of this feedback, I am unable to consider alternative venues for this year and for 2025/2026. However, as we only have five schools attending this June, I have liaised with Adam Heathcote (Head of Centres) and can confirm that we will be adding an additional event to the 2024 Sports Weekend.</i></p> <p><i>I believe that Low Bank Ground is a fantastic venue for the ATSA Sports Weekend as not only do we have a positive working relationship with the BeWell staff, the venue can cater for up to eleven ATSA schools. However, there is no point asking for feedback if you are not going to consider the response and so it would be great if whoever provided this feedback could contact me privately to discuss any potential alternative venues and we could work together to consider our options moving forward.</i></p>
Wish	ATSA response
<p>Rather than giving the numbers to yourself before the event as this can change, would it be easier to give them to the person in charge and then they give them to you after the event in one go.</p>	<p><i>I am grateful that people submit their ATSA numbers for each event. This ensures we can keep an accurate record of participants and, it also means schools can target specific children who have not accessed an event during the school year. As of July 2023, 28,382 participants (give or take) have taken part in an ATSA event! Thanks for your support!</i></p> <p><i>The reason I ask for these numbers via WhatsApp prior to the event is that collecting the numbers is an additional task that is not necessarily a priority for the event organiser. Sometimes, staff from your schools bring children to an event and when they are asked for the ATSA numbers, they are not aware of what they are. This sometimes means that I have to send messages to staff the day after event, which is what I am trying to avoid.</i></p> <p><i>As there are so many ATSA events, once an event has taken place, I update all social media on the night of the event and then the very first thing the day after, I update the photograph document for the website and the ATSA numbers. ATSA records are updated straight away as it is highly likely that another ATSA event will be taking place that very next day or the day after, and records will need updating further.</i></p> <p><i>I will have a think about how best to manage this for September 2024 and beyond.</i></p>

Wish	ATSA response
<p>Timings of some events during the school days are difficult to cover with staffing.</p>	<p>Please see the response I provided in 2021 regarding this:</p> <p><i>“This is something that I look at each year as I plan the events for the year ahead. When consulting with event organisers and venues, I try to balance the needs of the schools and the availability of resources for each event.</i></p> <p><i>The timing of our events is dictated by many factors. For example: The Yoga Taster Sessions will take place after school at St. George’s Central as there are lessons taking place in the hall during the school day. The events at the Pelican Centre take place during the day as paid swimming lessons take place after school. Kwik Cricket takes place during the day as this event could potentially go on for two or three hours. The KS1 Football takes place after school due to the working commitments of the volunteers at the football club. With some events, if we changed the timing of the event to during the day, the event could simply not take place.</i></p> <p><i>In terms of staffing, each school is different – some schools send teaching staff to events and so events during the day would mean that a class would need to be covered (this may be easy for one school, but difficult for others). Some schools send external coaches/support staff to events and so again some kind of ‘cover’ may be needed here as well. So for every school who may find cover after school difficult, there will be other schools who will find cover during the day for teaching and learning equally as difficult.</i></p> <p><i>For many of our events, parents/carers can come to spectate. Traditionally, more parents/carers can attend events to watch their children when they are after school. With more flexible working/people working from home, this may change over time and we may find more people can attend during the day.</i></p> <p><i>Although the dates/times for the large majority of our events have now been set for 2021/2022, I have taken this feedback on board and have already identified one of our larger events which may work better taking place during the day in 2021/2022. I will also look at this in more detail in April 2022 when we are planning for 2022/2023.”</i></p> <p>Please see the response I provided in 2022 regarding this:</p> <p><i>In addition to the comments above from last year, it is worth knowing what we did differently this year at SGC. I took inspiration from another ATSA school who told me what they did and so instead of speaking to people about supporting ATSA events ‘on corridors and in classrooms’, at the end of each half term, I would email out the events for the next half term to all our staff. On the email I would highlight which events would need an extra-curricular club to prepare the children and which events would simply need someone to be present (mainly taster sessions). In using this approach, I found we had more staff volunteer and we successfully had all events covered by various staff across school who wanted to support the children, particularly if the event involved children in their area of school.</i></p> <p><i>In a bid to increase participants at the Cycle Speedway this year, we organised an additional afternoon session. This actually made no difference to the number of schools who actually took part. For 2022/2023, not including adult events, weekend events, meetings and Holiday Provision, approximately 30% of ATSA events will take place during the school day.</i></p> <p><i>In terms of additional comments in May 2024, if anyone has any suggestions in terms of amending the timing of any of our specific events then please let me know.</i></p>
Wish	ATSA response
<p>Could ATSA use the opportunities and twin with a college for students doing sports courses and wanting experiences?</p>	<p><i>We are very lucky how many our events take place at local high schools, which have a plethora of volunteers who are able to support our events. However, we are always looking for people to support our events and over the years, ATSA has made use of ‘informal’ relationship with local colleges and students have supported some of our events.</i></p> <p><i>The best way to establish a formal working relationship is through having a named contact to liaise with as sometimes emails sent to a ‘generic’ inbox can become lost. If anyone has any contact details to support with this, then please let me know.</i></p>

Wish	ATSA response
<p>Mixing up what days taster sessions are held on as we can't enter these at present as all held on our staff meeting night so if they were scattered across different days would be more accessible.</p>	<p><i>For 2024/2025, we have the following ATSA Taster Sessions in place:</i></p> <p>Monday: -Boxing at SGC (1 session) -Kickstarterz at SGC (4 sessions) -Table Tennis at FLHS (1 session) -Badminton at FLHS (1 session) -Cycle Speedway at A&T Cycling Club (1 session) -Tennis at Tyldesley Tennis Club (1 session)</p> <p>Tuesday: N/A</p> <p>Wednesday: -Zumba at SGC (4 sessions) -Yoga at Toni Marie Yoga Studio (4 sessions)</p> <p>Thursday: -Golf at Boomers and Swingers (1 session) -Foot Golf at Boomers and Swingers (1 session) -Flag American Football at Tyldesley Rugby Union (1 session) -PFC KS1 Football (classed as a taster as this is not a competition) (1 session) -KS1 Girls' Football (classed as a taster as this is not a competition) (1 session)</p> <p>Friday: -KS1 Athletics (classed as a taster as this is not a competition) (1 session)</p> <p><i>In most cases the day the taster session takes place on is dictated by the external provider. If a session takes place at SGC, then a Tuesday is avoided as that is our staff meeting night and it is one of our staff who acts as the ATSA representative on the night.</i></p> <p><i>Moving forwards, please let me know if your school would like to host the Kickstarterz or the Zumba as having many events at SGC (during school time and after school) does bring some 'additional' strain for our school staff. Please contact me privately and then I will liaise with the two providers so that dates can be arranged that meet the needs of your school.</i></p>
Wish	ATSA response
<p>Usually after The Olympics and Paralympics, there's a surge of interest in a particular sport depending on how well we've performed! It may be that something further develops at community level for ATSA during the coming year.</p>	<p><i>After the London 2012 Olympics, the number of children who wanted to joined Leigh Harriers significantly increased. Therefore you are correct to note how the upcoming Olympics may spark a 'sporting' interest within our community.</i></p> <p><i>I am sure we will all enjoy a summer of sport and continue to support the young people within our community with whatever emerges.</i></p>
Wish	ATSA response
<p>I do not think that ATSA needs to improve anything that they organise</p>	<p><i>Many thanks for your feedback.</i></p>
Wish	ATSA response
<p>It is great that ATSA is moving into the culture arena with poetry, music etc. I'm looking forward to the upcoming art exhibition</p>	<p><i>Many thanks for your feedback.</i></p>



Mr M Grogan, Friday 17th May 2024

St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery
Darlington Street • Tyldesley • M29 8DH

Telephone: 01942 883773
Twitter: @MrGSGC

Email: headteacher@admin.saintgeorgescentral.wigan.sch.uk
Facebook: Atherton and Tyldesley Sports Association

Website: www.atsa.org.uk
Instagram: atsa2011