



# Elgin High School

Active Schools Annual Report 2014-15

# Elgin High School

Elgin High School is situated on the south side of Elgin. It serves the communities of New Elgin and the surrounding rural areas of Longmorn, Birnie and Miltonduff. The feeder primary schools are Greenwards PS, Mosstowie PS and New Elgin PS. With a roll of approximately 580 pupils in 2014-15, Elgin High School was the fifth largest of Moray's eight secondary schools.

The school is fully comprehensive for pupils of all abilities and all backgrounds. Kestrel House is the part of the school that caters for pupils with profound and complex learning difficulties.

## **Impact of Active Schools**

Elgin High School junior netball team continued to grow from strength to strength throughout 2014-15 year. We continued to have an impact by adherence to training sessions and by supporting qualified, motivated coaches in their delivery. We also organised regular Moray-wide tournaments at Gordonstoun, allowing the girls to participate in competitive sport. In 2014-15 a strong twelve S1-3 girls attended weekly coaching sessions.

Netball is one of the most popular and regularly attended activity sessions across primary and secondary schools. The momentum built in the sport over the past two years has allowed Elgin High ASG girls to continue to play netball from primary into secondary school, with quality coaching and competition. Netball is popular not only in Elgin High school but all secondary schools in Moray, meaning the opportunities for the Elgin HS team to continue to compete against other schools in the coming years will continue. There are several girls from the high school who play for the Moray squad team, competing with other local authorities on a regular basis. Three third year pupils attended netball leaders and umpire training all organised by Active Schools. This has given them the opportunity to lead their peers as well as volunteering their time to lead P4-7 primary pupils at the Elgin High ASG netball sessions.

There was an increase in 2014-15 in the number of different activities offered at Elgin High from the previous year to both males and females with the addition of cricket and dance & movement

sessions. Most of these activities include sporting events, competition and the opportunity to join a local club.



**Above:** the Elgin High School surf club at East Beach, Lossiemouth.

### **Deliverers Network**

In 2014-15 Elgin High School formed a surfing club and two teachers organised weekly coaching sessions with Donald Peace from New Wave Surf School in Lossiemouth. EHS teachers Mr Morrison and Mr Trybis were the driving force behind the new club as they have a keen interest in surfing and engaging pupils in the sport. Active Schools supported this new exciting project by applying for and receiving funding of £1920 from the Big Lottery Fund. The majority of it was used to reduce the cost of lessons, allowing more pupils to have the opportunity to attend and improve their surfing skills and confidence. The club ran from April to October and the reduced cost showed an increase in the number of pupils wishing to try the sport with approximately 15 pupils attending regularly. EHS surf club purchased eight surfboards and leashes of varying size for a mix of abilities. The next steps are to apply for further funding to cover costs for the teachers to qualify in beach lifeguard and surf instruction so they can take the pupils themselves; with this, the club can be more sustainable and accessible for all pupils. The teachers aim to have two sessions per week where possible and give up their own time to give pupils this opportunity.

In 2014-15 we saw an increase in the number of voluntary deliverers at Elgin High School. This was due mainly to the extra involvement of teaching staff delivering in their own time and wanting to engage with pupils in afterschool activities such as cricket, surfing, football and girls' football. This had a direct impact on the number of distinct participants taking part in Active

Schools-supported activities: from 41 distinct participants in 2013-14 to 58 distinct participants in 2014-15.

### **School to Club Links**

There were two main school-to-club links for Elgin High School in 2014-15: with Elgin City FC girls programme and Elgin Cricket Club. We held tri-annual girls-only Soccer One tournaments with almost every secondary school in Moray entering a team or two. Miss McCulloch held weekly coaching sessions with approximately ten girls attending, preparing them for the regular tournaments. The well-attended tournaments gave the girls the chance to play against other teams and also allowed us to make links with the local football club in the hope that the girls will move onto more competitive sport. Some of the girls who attended the tournaments have gone on to train at Elgin City FC and have increased the club's junior membership. The club relies on this link to attract new players.

Moray Cricket Association community coach Neil Nichol delivered curricular and extracurricular cricket sessions at Elgin HS for S1 pupils. There is a huge amount of cricket delivered in Primary schools so we wanted to build momentum to give opportunity in secondary school to provide a pathway. Afterschool sessions were delivered in the build up to a Moray-wide tournament to give the pupils a competitive edge in the sport. The tournament was run by Elgin Cricket Club coaches and Active Schools and, as a result, two of the participating girls and three boys went on to join the community club.

The attached monitoring report has been produced by Sportscotland on our behalf and contains the 'outputs' of our efforts to create more opportunities for children to get active in 2014-15. We hope this might be useful for inspections, for dissemination to parents, or simply for your own information. Please contact me directly if there is anything in the report you would like to discuss in detail, or if you need any more information.

Laura Stewart  
Active Schools Coordinator (Secondary)  
Elgin HS

***“Active Schools enables us all to be more active, more often and have play an essential part in ensuring that our societies get vital opportunities to train, play and develop new skills at all levels of the sporting spectrum, encouraging life-long learning and experience.”***

*George Whitecross  
Scottish Rugby Union Development  
Officer (Moray)*