



Hampshire Cricket Board

School Report 2024/25





CHANCE TO SHINE
Inspiring young people through cricket

Introduction



We are proud to present our second annual school report at a time of significant progress for state school cricket. This past year we received our highest level of funding for our Primary School Programme. An investment that, combined with the passion and dedication of our Community Coaches, has allowed us to expand our reach, inspire more children and build new partnerships with schools across the county.

The academic year began with a moment of great pride, in November 2024 Hampshire Cricket Board (HCB) were named Chance to Shine's Delivery Partner of the Year. This prestigious recognition, received for the first time, celebrated our impactful work in state schools across Hampshire and our growing presence in urban communities across Portsmouth and Basingstoke.

Momentum continued to build throughout the year, culminating in a record-breaking success for our Secondary Girls' Chance to Compete competition. With 41 teams entering the county stages in June, and then both county winners taking the title at the regional finals in July, it has turned out to be a truly inspiring year for state school cricket.

This report highlights the breadth and depth of HCB's efforts to promote cricket in state schools and reflects the meaningful difference we are making in young people's lives. Although we know there is more to do, we remain committed to expanding our impact and reaching schools we have not yet partnered with. We invite any new schools to join us as we look ahead to the new academic year.



Emily Munro Cricket Operations Manager



Primary Delivery

Our Primary School Programme saw significant growth in 2024/25, supported by continued funding from Chance to Shine. We delivered structured half-term blocks of coaching to 101 schools, providing weekly sessions that allowed the same groups of children to develop their cricket skills, build teamwork and enjoy physical activity with their peers.

In addition, we ran engagement days at 72 schools, many of which were new to the programme,

broadening our reach and introducing even more children to the game.

Our dedicated team of Community Coaches worked tirelessly to ensure sessions were inclusive and accessible to all children. They also supported teachers with lesson plans and guidance, helping embed cricket into the school's curriculum and ensuring the game remains sustainable long after our programmes have finished.



**173
schools**



**21,190
children**



**3481
coaching hours**



We thoroughly enjoyed the sessions. They were pitched just right for the children and inputs were quick and informative so the children could get started as quickly as possible. Feedback was also given to children throughout the lesson on how they could improve further.

Hightown Primary School

The children have loved every session and really look forward to Katie coaching them. The engagement has been fantastic and children have signed up for cricket clubs/holiday sessions because they have enjoyed it so much.

Alver Valley School



Primary School Reach



Whole School Programme Delivery

Throughout the academic year, we worked with 101 schools, delivering a half term block of high quality sessions. Over time, children built and strengthened their skills all while teachers were guided and supported in developing their own coaching skills. Beyond curriculum delivery, schools also benefited from an engaging assembly, playground leader training for Year 5/6 pupils and a dedicated CPD session for staff.



Engagement days

Across the spring and summer terms we delivered 72 engagement days to schools across the county. These one-off events were designed to give as many children as possible a fun and exciting introduction to cricket, while also highlighting the wider opportunities available to continue playing beyond the school day.

Potley Hill Primary

Cricket through Chance to Shine has had a truly transformative impact on our school community this year. From the very first whole-school assembly, interest and enthusiasm have grown rapidly – and we've absolutely caught the cricketing bug! Our staff benefited from a high-quality CPD session which gave them the confidence and tools to deliver engaging cricket

lessons in the future and we saw an incredible uptake in upper Key Stage 2, with a dedicated group of enthusiastic cricket play leaders emerging from the programme.

We were thrilled to attend a local cricket tournament, which gave our pupils the chance to showcase their skills and teamwork, but the highlight of



the year was undoubtedly our visit to Lord's (which is not something they would normally get the chance to experience) – where we helped break the Guinness World Record for the largest ever cricket lesson in a single venue. The word 'cricket' around our school has certainly created an enormous buzz and is met with so much eagerness!

As a new school, we were so proud to fully embrace the opportunity and to be named 'School of the Term' by Hampshire Cricket Board. It's been a joyful, inclusive, and empowering journey for our children and staff alike, and we're excited to see what the future holds for cricket at Potley.



“We've absolutely caught the cricketing bug!”

Primary Competition

Working closely with School Games Organisers across Hampshire, we delivered a wide range of cricket opportunities for both KS1 and KS2 pupils this year. For our youngest participants, skills festivals centred on developing fundamental movement, encouraging personal best and sparking a love for cricket from an early age.

For KS2 pupils, our Year 5/6 Dynamos competitions, featuring both open and girls-only categories, offered a platform for friendly competition and teamwork. We concluded the Dynamos competitions with 2 unforgettable county finals at Utilita Bowl, where 330 children had the chance to play on the outfield and create lasting memories.



Skills Festivals



50 schools
428 children

County Finals



15 girls teams
18 mixed teams

SGO Dynamos Competitions



160 schools
1519 children



Girls County Winners
Weeke Primary School

Mixed County Winners
Merdon Junior School



Secondary Competitions

Our secondary school competition calendar is designed to offer a broad mix of friendly and competitive fixtures throughout the academic year for both boys and girls, with a strong emphasis on increasing opportunities for state school teams.

During the winter, we ran the ECB Girls' indoor competition, which offers schools a pathway through to regional and national stages. In addition, we ran our first indoor tape ball competitions thanks to Chance to Shine funding. As the weather warmed, we delivered a variety of summer events, including both one day festivals and knock-out competitions for boys and girls alike.

Indoor Competition



46 teams - ECB girls
10 teams - CTS tape ball festival

Summer Competition



10 Teams - Year 7 Softball festival
41 Girls teams - Chance to Compete
33 Girls teams - T20 hardball knockout
35 Teams - Hundred hardball knockout
24 Boys Teams - Softball festival

Our goal is to ensure cricket is accessible to all, whether students are experienced players or trying the sport for the first time. We want to create inclusive, supportive environments where players feel confident to participate and enjoy the game.



Secondary winners

Winter



ECB U13 Girls - Priestlands School
ECB U15 Girls - King Edwards VI
School Southampton

Summer Hardball



Girls U13 T20 - St Swithun's School
Girls U15 T20 - King Edwards VI School
Southampton
Boys U13 Hundred - Kings' School
Boys U15 Hundred - Toynbee School

Summer Softball



U13 Chance to Compete - Toynbee School
U15 Chance to Compete - Kings' School
U13 Boys - Hounslow School
U15 Boys - Swanmore College

Regional Chance to Compete Final

Each year HCB host the Chance to Compete Regional Finals which serve as a celebration of girls' cricket across the South Coast. Hosted in collaboration with Hampshire's professional women's team, the event not only delivers high-quality competition but also connects young players with female role models, inspiring the next generation of cricketers.

This year's finals brought together 16 teams from seven counties,

competing across two age groups (U13 and U15) in a day packed with energy, talent, and passion for the game. Hampshire proudly fielded two teams in each age group following nail-biting county finals in June and were represented by Priestlands (U13s and U15s), Toynbee (U13s) and Kings' (U15s). Throughout the day, the girls didn't just showcase outstanding cricket; they also embodied the spirit of the game, representing

Hampshire with pride and determination.

The competition was fierce and thrilling throughout, culminating in an incredible result for Hampshire: three of our teams made it to the finals. The U13 final saw an all-Hampshire showdown, with Toynbee School edging past Priestlands in a tightly contested match to claim the top spot. In the U15 category, Priestlands delivered a commanding

performance to defeat Dr Challoner's High School from Buckinghamshire and secure first place.

To cap off an unforgettable day, Hampshire Women's captain Georgia Adams and teammate Freya Davies were on hand to present medals to the winning teams, leaving the players with memories, inspiration, and aspirations that will last well beyond the competition.



Girls' Cricket Thriving in Hampshire

Girls' participation in cricket continues to go from strength to strength, with growing numbers seen across schools within Hampshire. At Priestlands, we've found that providing competitive opportunities through fixtures has significantly enhanced our cricket programme. The chance to play in matches, not just train, has led to greater enthusiasm and uptake than a purely recreational offering ever could.

Thanks to the fantastic festivals and tournaments organised by Hampshire Cricket Board, our girls have had more chances than ever to play, compete, and improve. The quality of cricket is rising alongside the participation, and it's clear the momentum is building.

Our players are incredibly grateful for the opportunities they've had this year. The indoor festivals provided essential winter cricket, something rare but hugely valuable and our

teams performed brilliantly. Finishing as U13 winners and U15s runners-up in the finals. Outdoor cricket brought even more excitement. The girls first competed in the hardball county tournament, followed by the Chance to Shine festival. Both our U13 and U15 teams progressed through the county stages and into the regional finals, where the U13s finished runners-up and the U15s were crowned champions, evidence of the impressive standard of

girls' cricket currently thriving in the New Forest.

A true highlight came with the honour of representing Hampshire Cricket at the England v India ODI at the Utilita Bowl. Our girls had the unforgettable experience of walking the players out and forming a guard of honour, memories that will stay with them forever and, we hope, inspire them to continue their cricketing journey.

Sam Gibbs | Head of PE
Priestlands School



Schools T20 Takeover

Hampshire Hawks Men and Women v Surrey Men and Women

Our annual Schools T20 Takeover returned to Utilita Bowl on Tuesday 17th June, and this year marked a historic first, both the Men's and Women's teams took to the field as Hampshire Hawks. The day offered a brilliant opportunity to showcase not only the men's game but also the growing strength of women's cricket, inspiring students from across Hampshire and surrounding counties.

Under glorious sunshine, the day featured big hits and hundreds of runs across two exciting matches. Hampshire Women triumphed over Surrey, while the Men's team, despite a spirited effort, fell just short. Throughout the day, the true spirit of cricket shone through, with children enjoying every moment — a celebration of sport, teamwork, and inspiration for the next generation.



35 schools



**over 1100 pupils,
teachers & parents**



The game on Tuesday was fantastic. The whole organisation of the day of was brilliant which is a huge credit to you and your staff. Both teachers and parents commented on how friendly and welcoming the atmosphere was. For most of our children (and parents) this was their first experience of a live sporting event. Quite a few of the parents who came on the trip were booking tickets on the coach home to bring their children back later in the season! The activities centres were well run and the coaches running them were amazing with the children. We have had the children asking to do cricket every day since we got back!! It's definitely a trip we will be looking to do again next year!

Portway Infant School



Hampshire Cricket Board

School Report 2024/25

