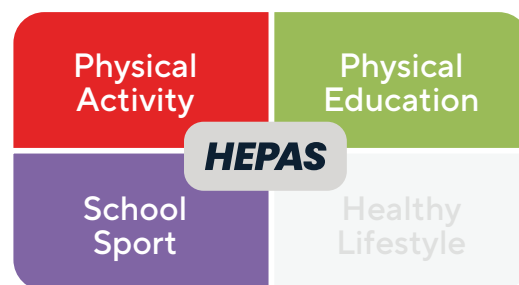


# #22 Active School Flag

Department of Education/Healthy Ireland  
Ireland



Curriculum, PE lessons



Active recess



Community partnerships

## DESCRIPTION:

In order to achieve the Active School Flag (ASF), Irish primary schools (ages 4-12 yrs.) must firstly engage in a process of self-evaluation and then work together as a school community to meet the ASF criteria for physical education, physical activity, partnerships and Active School Week. Schools must provide evidence that they teach a broad and balanced PE curriculum at all age levels – Aquatics, Athletics, Dance, Games, Gymnastics and Outdoor & Adventure – and engage in Continuous Professional Development (CPD) in physical education. They must show that they provide students with opportunities and incentives to be active throughout the school day, including playground initiatives, active classroom breaks, running challenges, 'learning on the move' activities and active calendar events. ASF offers many and varied opportunities for student leadership, including ASF committee members, playground leaders, survey teams etc., who are encouraged to work with parents, local sports clubs, community programmes and national initiatives. Schools wishing to apply for ASF must 'showcase' their activities and events on their website. An assessor visits the school once evidence is provided that all of the ASF criteria are being met. Every three years, schools have to re-engage with the process to renew their ASF status. A new ASF process for post-primary schools (13-18yrs.) is currently in development.



## SOCIAL INTERACTION

ASF is a whole of school process requiring all members of the school community to work together to ensure that the criteria are being met at all class levels. The process empowers schools to look to families, local and national agencies for support. Schools share their ideas, initiatives and successes with other schools at training events, through monthly newsletters and social media, resulting in a vibrant and strong ASF community.



## IMPACT ON ATTITUDES

ASF provides schools with a framework, incentives and supports to build fun and inclusive physical activity opportunities into the school day. It seeks to raise awareness about the benefits that physical activity brings to teaching and learning. Engaging with the process and collectively working towards the award motivates stakeholders and thus has a long-term capacity to change attitudes.

## ORGANISATIONAL NEEDS

The number of ASF coordinators per school varies depending on the school size. ASF resources are made available to participating schools and regular, online training events are organised to support teachers. Whole-of-school participation events and challenges are scheduled throughout the year for staff and students. ASF provides schools with a flexible time frame to complete the process. Schools wishing to apply for ASF must complete an online application form, which is reviewed alongside their website evidence. This is followed by a school visit. Successful schools are awarded with the flag and an ASF certificate. A darker version of the flag is awarded to renewal schools, acknowledging their continued commitment to the ASF process.

## If you want to know more about the practice

- 'About ASF' video
- [activeschoolflag.ie](http://activeschoolflag.ie)



The successful implementation of this practice will help you reach one of the Moving Schools Award levels.  
[www.movingschoolsaward.com](http://www.movingschoolsaward.com)