



## PRIMARY CURRICULUM SPORTS PROGRAMME

The Primary Curriculum Sports Programme was introduced into schools in the 2007/2008 school year and has grown this year. The Department of Education is providing funding to enable coaches to work in primary schools.

The programme is common to both the GAA and IFA, focussing on developing the generic physical literacy skills of our youngest pupils and supporting teachers. The only difference will be the organisation and sport used to deliver it.

### Main programme objectives:

- Develop the generic physical literacy skills of our youngest pupils through participation in enjoyable sports activities;
- Help raise pupils' confidence & self-esteem, their motivation to learn and their achievements in other curricular areas, particularly literacy and numeracy, supported by homework projects
- Enhance pupils social and emotional development through PE
- Raise the confidence of, and provide support to, primary teachers in delivering P.E.
- Link with schools to promote their schemes and ensure we are part of whole school planning

### Delivery:

- The GAA and IFA coaches will work with the class teacher in delivering the programme to primary classes;
- The intended focus is on Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1, although it will be a matter for each school to determine the year group/s they wish to provide the programme for;
- The sessions will take place during curriculum time in support of the PE curriculum;
- The class teacher should engage in planning and review with the coach, must be present and participate during all sessions to support their own development, and should follow up as appropriate in their teaching.

### Expectations of schools:

Schools will work closely with the coach to clarify expectations, roles and support to the coach at the outset but key aspects should include:

- Teachers to work with coaches in planning and review, to participate in sessions and follow-up in class teaching, including through homework project;
- Schools to participate in baseline assessment of pupil and teacher skills;
- Use of fitness and skills tests to measure children's levels at the start and at the end of the project
- Schools (principals, teachers and pupils) should participate in evaluation of the programme, including independent evaluation through survey visits by Education & Training Inspectorate (ETI).

