

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are pleased to announce that your child is participating in the Junior Award Scheme for Schools (JASS). This letter explains a bit more about the JASS award, as well as how you can help.

What is the Junior Award Scheme for Schools?

The Junior Award Scheme for Schools (JASS) is an accredited award for young people. By providing a structured programme, JASS aims to support young people through the transition from Primary School to Secondary School. JASS has been designed to be wholly consistent with the Curriculum for Excellence and is flexible and adaptable to the interests and abilities of individuals to ensure it is achievable by all participants.

While much of the programme can be delivered as part of the normal curriculum, participants can also gain accreditation for activities, clubs and interests pursued out with school.

The award is progressive, with increasing commitment, learning and challenge at each level. Each level requires four sections to be completed. The activity can be delivered as part of class work, out with the normal curriculum, or with school partners. This means that the school will often offer choices for pupils to complete JASS within the school day. Where appropriate, the activity could be carried out away from school altogether involving the young person in club activity mentored independently.

My Interests: This could be an interest they are already involved in or the opportunity to learn a new skill. This does not mean that you need to run around taking your child to lots of clubs. Examples include drama, music, chess, arts and crafts, cookery, information technology or looking after pets. Any hobby or pastime could be considered, with the exception of doing sport or physical activity which can only be counted under the *Get Active, Stay Active* section of the award.

Get Active, Stay Active: Involvement in any sport or physical activity which develops an interest in keeping fit. The activity can be organised as part of a school-wide programme or accredited as part of a non-school activity. Where the activity is delivered in school, it must be in addition to any physical activity which is part of the core curriculum. Examples of activities in this section include dance, riding, swimming, football, rugby, skating and aerobics.

Me and My World: Involves participants contributing to the local community or working on an environmental project. The project can be delivered by the school or by an outside agency on behalf of the school. In addition, participants can be accredited for work they are already involved in within the community. Examples include participation in concerts within the community, environmental projects, Fair Trade Week events, helping at Brownies or fund raising events.

Adventure: The intention of this section is to work as part of a team in an outdoor setting. Through problem solving or learning new skills the young person will develop better interpersonal skills and self-confidence. Examples include orienteering, treasure hunt, canoeing, rock climbing, problem-solving challenge, an overnight camp and a nature walk.

How long does it take?

	My Interests	Get Active, Stay Active	Me and My World	Adventure
White	2 hours over a school term	2 hours over a school term	2 hours over a school term	1 hour
Yellow	3 hours over a school term	3 hours over a school term	3 hours over a school term	2 hours
Red	4 hours over a school term	4 hours over a school term	4 hours over a school term	2 hours
Green	5 hours over a school term	5 hours over a school term	5 hours over a school term	3 hours
Blue	6 hours over a school term	6 hours over a school term	6 hours over a school term	4 hours
Bronze	8 hours over a school term	8 hours over a school term	8 hours over a school term	4 hours
Silver	12 hours over a school term	12 hours over a school term	12 hours over a school term	5 hours
Gold	18 hours over two school terms	18 hours over two school terms	18 hours over two school terms	8 hours

How does JASS work?

Initial Planning:

Participants have been issued with a JASS Achievement File to record their progress. Participants start out by thinking about what activities they currently enjoy, or would like to try, and work out a timetable to complete these activities.

Target Setting: Individual targets are set by each young person in consultation with their mentor. The targets must be achievable and take into consideration the abilities of the young person. For example, if **two participants look to do** swimming for their '*Get Active Stay Active*' section where one is a non-swimmer and the other is a member of a swimming club, the non-swimmer may set a target of swimming a length of the pool whereas the member of the swimming club may set a target to beat their personal best time over several lengths or learn a new swimming stroke.

Record Keeping: Participants are encouraged to add project material to their file to provide evidence of their achievements as they complete their planned activities. Evidence can be added in a variety of formats including images, diary entries, and posters.

Accreditation:

Upon successful completion of each JASS section, a Sectional Certificate can be issued, with a Full Certificate and pin badge issued on successful completion of all four sections of a JASS level. Certificates are issued by the mentor in charge of the group and, where possible, should involve a small ceremony to mark the achievement.

How You Can Assist

Participants have been given a questionnaire to plan how they will achieve accreditation for each of the four sections of the award and to identify potential mentors. We would be grateful if you could discuss this with your child to assist in planning for their award. From this, achievable targets for each section should be set by the participant in consultation with their activity mentor.

JASS section may involve an external mentor to sign the record sheet to say that your child has taken part in the activity and to record what they have learnt. It is also possible for you or another family member/friend, to become a JASS mentor. If you have a specific skill or interest that would be of benefit to the school - such as being part of an orienteering, cycling, jogging or craft group - you could offer to support the school – giving all young people the chance to try something new. You can also help your child to gather evidence for JASS by taking notes or keeping photographs, programmes / publicity materials or certificates.

External mentors such as club leaders can sign the JASS record sheets in the Achievement File to verify that your child has taken part in an activity and to record what they have learnt. It can be helpful for you to talk about JASS with the external mentor before starting out, so that they understand what is required of them, ensuring your child gets the best experience for their award.

More information

If you would like more information we recommend speaking to a member of staff at your child's school. Alternatively the JASS website has additional information: www.jassschools.org.uk/

We are constantly looking to develop the JASS award, and welcome your suggestions and feedback. Please contact us at: admin@jassschools.org.uk with any feedback on JASS.