

Questionnaire feedback: June 2022

(Survey open online from Wednesday 8th June – Friday 24th June 2022)

Surveys completed	
Number of surveys completed	10

*Roles responded	
Role	Number of responses
School ATSA rep (named in Directory)	3
School staff member (attended an ATSA event)	5
Event leader/organiser	4
Headteacher	0
School Governor	2
Community sports group member	2

*some people selected more than one role

Stars (the things you really like about ATSA)

Stars
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *The range of competitions/taster sessions available to all children throughout the year. *The communication via WhatsApp group and from the ATSA booklet. Both easy to follow and easy to sign up for events. I also like the system of sending Mark the names of children competing in events. It doesn't take lots of time and it is straightforward. *The ease of communicating with ATSA leaders whether it be about a competition or signing up to the competition. *Caters for all children *Give lots of opportunities to take part in many different sporting activities. *Encourages the sense of competition between local schools. *Local experts delivering sessions and tasters. *Range of sports offered to children, including taster sessions and half-term provision. *Ensuring competitive events for children between other schools *Bringing children and staff together - 'Friendship Through Sport'. I think ATSA makes great links between staff members and community sport members. *Brings communities if schools together. *All abilities can try new things. *Variety of sports. *Inclusive of gender, race, ability. Something for all year groups in school. *Holiday provision provided to support vulnerable families. *Range of opportunities on offer provide children with excellent choice of taster activities to hook children in. *Amazing selection of events. Something for every child. *Superb organisation, thank you to everyone for their hard work, particularly to Mr Grogan and Mr Cooke. *A vast array of opportunities for sign posting on to local clubs and organisations. *It is the number of sports that ATSA showcases especially the minority sports. *The number of different ability ranges so all children can partake in events. *The community sports clubs that are involved in ATSA and who then recruit from participants into the community sports clubs. *Communication. *I know I've highlighted this in previous years before but I feel having the ATSA Directory with events and all the information together must have been such a positive for schools as they started to re-establish opportunities for the children post pandemic. *Opportunities it offers to young people including secondary children e.g umpires at events. *Working with a range of local sport providers, in particular being involved in projects such as the guided busway mosaic, places ATSA firmly in the community and with it a sense for those children of the benefits of community values. *Community liaison. *ATSA continually seeks to offer new opportunities and develop existing ones that cover all age groups and abilities. It is pleasing to see how in recent years this has attracted schools outside the Atherton/Tyldesley area to become valued member schools.

Wishes (ways that you think we could improve ATSA)

Wish	ATSA response
<p>I know others have brought this up in previous years but possibly having the longer events during the school day rather than starting at 3.45pm. We understand some schools struggle with covering staff but we have sometimes experienced difficulty with staff volunteering to attend ATSA events when they are after-school. This can result in the same staff attending most of the competitions.</p> <p>We also thought it might be better if continuous events such as the football leagues could start a few weeks earlier and be spread across more weeks. We found that particularly the football fixtures were quite close together.</p>	<p><i>See the response I provided last year regarding this:</i></p> <p><i>“This is something that I look at each year as I plan the events for the year ahead. When consulting with event organisers and venues, I try to balance the needs of the schools and the availability of resources for each event.</i></p> <p><i>The timing of our events is dictated by many factors. For example: The Yoga Taster Sessions will take place after school at St. George’s Central as there are lessons taking place in the hall during the whole day. The events at the Pelican Centre take place during the day as paid swimming lessons take place after school. Kwik Cricket takes place during the day as this event could potentially go on for two or three hours. The KS1 Football takes place after school due to the working commitments of the volunteers at the football club. With some events, if we changed the timing of the event to during the day, the event could simply not take place.</i></p> <p><i>In terms of staffing, each school is different – some schools send teaching staff to events and so events during the day would mean that a class would need to be covered (this may be easy for one school, but difficult for others). Some schools send external coaches/support staff to events and so again some kind of ‘cover’ may be needed here as well. So for every schools who may find cover after school difficult, there will be other schools who will find cover during the day for teaching and learning equally as difficult.</i></p> <p><i>For many of our events, parents/carers can come to spectate. Traditionally, more parents/carers can attend events to watch their children when they are after school. With more flexible working/people working from home, this may change over time and we may find more people can attend during the day.</i></p> <p><i>Although the dates/times for the large majority of our events have now been set for 2021/2022, I have taken this feedback on board and have already identified one of our larger events which may work better taking place during the day in 2021/2022. I will also look at this in more detail in April 2022 when we are planning for 2022/2023.”</i></p> <p><i>In addition to the comments above from last year, it is worth knowing what we did differently this year at SGC. I took inspiration from another ATSA school who told me what they did and so instead of speaking to people about supporting ATSA events ‘on corridors and in classrooms’, at the end of each half term, I would email out the events for the next half term to all our staff. On the email I would highlight which events would need an extra-curricular club to prepare the children and which events would simply need someone to be present (mainly taster sessions). In using this approach, I found we had more staff volunteer and we successfully had all events covered by various staff across school who wanted to support the children, particularly if the event involved children in their area of school.</i></p> <p><i>In a bid to increase participants at the Cycle Speedway this year, we organised an additional afternoon session. This actually made no difference to the number of schools who actually took part. For 2022/2023, not including adult events, weekend events, meetings and Holiday Provision, approximately 30% of ATSA events will take taking place during the school day.</i></p> <p><i>With the football league, I made an error in December 2020 when I planned the fixtures. There was a week of mixed games and then a week of girls’ matches. For some weeks, schools (me included) were unsure which team was playing. So this year, to ensure there was no confusion, I kept all the mixed fixtures together and then started the girls league at a later date.</i></p> <p><i>This year, the league started on Monday 17th January and was completed on Monday 25th April. We did start the league one week later than we usually would have done due to the availability of the pitch at Fred Longworth. When planning the fixtures, not only do I have to liaise with FLHS, I also have to consider individual requests from schools and then there is also the usual re-organisation of matches due to having to call games off, due to the weather (and for this year, COVID played its part with this).</i></p> <p><i>We are currently looking for someone to lead the ATSA football leagues and so please let me know if you are interested in doing this. The fixtures will be emailed to schools in December 2022 and so please let me know if you would be willing to undertake this role.</i></p>

Wish	ATSA response
<p>School league tables. Champion of schools based on competition results</p>	<p><i>This sounds fun! So we would look at the competition results and collate which school had won the most competitions over the course of a year? Since 2011? That would be interesting and could easily be undertaken as we have event records from October 2011. We could provide both annual information as well as data from 2011.</i></p> <p><i>It is interesting the way we look at things as for me, the number children we have accessing our event would be a more 'telling' figure as opposed to the number of trophies schools have won (I have changed as I have got older haven't !! Ha ha!) Since September 2013, we have collected data about the number of children who have taken part in events from each school and so that information could also be easily be accessed.</i></p> <p><i>We could collate all the information above and include this in the ATSA Directory?!</i></p> <p><i>Leave this with me as like I have said, all the information is easily accessible and once in place, it would only require an annual update.</i></p>
Wish	ATSA response
<p>Bring back some of the staff based events, such as the Quiz and adult football matches.</p>	<p><i>Ignoring the 'COVID years', the annual staff kurling event has taken place every Summer Term since 2012. Thanks to the staff of St. Michael's for organising and hosting this each year. This event is accessible to staff members of all ages and it is a great evening where people from the different schools can come together and socialise. This event is planned into the calendar of events in the 2022/2023 ATSA Directory for Friday 19th May 2023.</i></p> <p><i>An ATSA staff football team was then established with the first match being played in 2015. Annual matches were played at Atherton Collieries each September. There has not been a staff football match since September 2019. I will therefore look to organise a game for September 2022.</i></p> <p><i>In November 2019, a staff Question of Sport quiz was held at St. George's Central School for the first time. I did not have the time (nor motivation if I am honest) during the Autumn Term this academic year to sit down and prepare the quiz in as much detail as I had previously done. I am aiming to be more prepared this year and this quiz night will be included as part of the 2022/2023 ATSA Directory for Friday 18th November 2022.</i></p> <p><i>With all these events, the individual school-based ATSA representative is crucial in promoting them in their school. Some people have mentioned that this does not necessarily happen in their school, which is a shame as the 'adult events' are for all school staff. During other informal conversations with people, regarding the kurling and the staff quiz, when I have asked people if they attending these event, I have received feedback such as 'I am no good at kurling' and 'I don't know about sport' for the quiz.</i></p> <p><i>For me, these events are not about 'being good', they are more about the 'social side' of life. I said at the recent 10-year Celebration Event that "Friendship Through Sport starts with the adults". If the adults can come together collaboratively then it bodes well for our children, which is the whole ethos of ATSA.</i></p> <p><i>I look forward to seeing you and your staff at one of our planned staff events.</i></p>
Wish	ATSA response
<p>More staff events.</p>	<p><i>See response above.</i></p>
Wish	ATSA response
<p>Maybe an awards night celebrating achievements.</p>	<p><i>This is a great idea and we have tried to do before. Although we do not have an awards night planned for 2022/2023, we could have a look at penciling something in during this year. Let me know if you are able to help to organise this as, I know from the recent 10-Year Celebration Event, a huge team effort is needed for an evening event of this nature to be a success.</i></p>

Wish	ATSA response
Consider summer activities.	<p><i>From this response, I take 'summer activities' to mean the 'Holiday Provision' we organise each half term?! For purely selfish reasons, the half term holiday provision has been reduced to three days as it ensures that I am able to access two full days of the half term holiday for myself. As a Level 3 Safeguarding Lead, I need to be 'contactable' during the days that the holiday provision is in place and so I use those three days to undertake school work and then have the final part of the holiday doing other things.</i></p> <p><i>Many of the providers we use, have their own holiday provision offer in place and there is the funding in place from Wigan Council for organisations to put on these sessions at the same reduced rate that we offer (they may even be able to do it cheaper than the £4 a day we do?).</i></p> <p><i>There is also lot of administration involved in the holiday provision and so it is highly likely that I will continue to use the Summer holiday time to prepare SGC for the start of the school year.</i></p>
Wish	ATSA response
Ideally the netball (which is extremely well run) could go back to having all the fixtures over 2 days rather than over several nights as it is difficult to find enough staff to attend after school.	<p><i>Thanks to Miss Waite and Mrs Roberts (Holy Family) for organising the Tyldesley section of the netball league and Miss Johnson (St Philip's) for organising the Atherton section of the league. Thanks also to their schools for hosting the matches. Like I do every year, I am sure that all event organisers will look at how they may adapt their event for next year.</i></p>
Wish	ATSA response
Review of events offered. For example: Chowbent netball festival last few years has had a number of entrants and then one day before or a few days prior, it only has two teams. Last time it ran we took a b team to make up numbers and only us entered on day in end. This year, the day before I'm informed it's gone from 4 schools to just us and Chowbent. Just wondering is it worth continuing with as we move forward? Or what are the reasons for poor attendance can we address it?	<p><i>Thanks to Mrs Gilman for organising this event for the Atherton schools. This event pre-dates ATSA and has taken place for many years. Like the response above, I am sure all event organisers will look at their event and how it can be adapted for next year.</i></p>
Wish	ATSA response
Have there been any suggestions for improvement or change from the Sports Council reps? I'm wondering if there are possibilities to consider from their ideas.	<p><i>Unfortunately, the Sports Council meeting in September 2021 was cancelled. We will look to prioritise their involvement in ATSA next year. Our first meeting is usually where we provide the children with some background information about ATSA and then ask for their ideas. We really need a project for them to lead. If anyone has any ideas of something that the children could work on then let me know as it is always good for the children to have something to aim for.</i></p>
Wish	ATSA response
None	<p><i>Many thanks for your feedback.</i></p>



Mr M Grogan, Friday 8th July 2022