

SCHOOL ↔ COMMUNITY

LINKS

INTRODUCTION

Successful school ↔ community links are basically partnerships between a school and a community organisation working together with a common goal to:

- Meet the needs of young people first and foremost
- Provide opportunities for young people
- Assist young people to realise and achieve their potential
- Develop best practice standards of provision
- Assist the school to deliver sport and recreation opportunities

BEFORE YOU BEGIN!

There are 4 key messages that MUST be taken into consideration when developing and maintaining school ↔ community links:

- Participant Centred
- Regular, Honest & Transparent Communication
- Preparing young people for life long involvement
- Importance of a school promoting a good relationship

BEFORE YOU BEGIN!

Two more things to take on board:

- *The purpose of strengthening links between community organisations and schools is to help increase the number of children and young people experience quality physical activity!*
- *Healthier confident people are more likely to be able to participate in sport, recreation and physical activity for longer periods throughout their lives!*



BENEFITS

Both schools and community organisations will see young people:

- Enjoying and REGULARLY participating in PA
- With a desire to achieve in sport
- Making progress and fulfilling their potential
- Leading a balanced and healthy lifestyle
- With a sense of belonging to the school / club

TYPES OF LINKS

There are 2 types of links:

- Informal
 - ⇒ Working with community organisations to provide opportunities for students without there being any formal and/or agreed basis (as and when needed basis)
- Formal
 - ⇒ Working collaboratively with community organisations to provide opportunities with common goals in place (more formal by way of agreed method of working)

INFORMAL LINKS

E.g. A club is promoting itself through the provision of a coach to ultimately attain more members, where as the school's overall goal is to get the best possible coach for one of their teams.

- ⇒ Independent goals but can create a win/win
- ⇒ Goals are not defined as participant centred
- ⇒ No COMMON GOAL
- ⇒ School and club are communicating
- ⇒ A partnership is forming albeit for different reasons

FORMAL LINKS

This is a formal agreement between two parties with a COMMON SET OF GOALS.

There are two types of formal links:

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- School Club entity

FORMAL LINKS

Before undertaking any work on formal links there are 3 Q's both parties need to answer:

- Is there a need?
 - ⇒ A need must be identified. Each party should know their needs before they meet.
- Are we capable?
 - ⇒ Both parties must be able to show they are capable of sustaining a link
- Who is responsible?
 - ⇒ One representative from each organisation must be appointed to ensure the new partnership is maintained and developed.

FORMAL LINKS

Before making contact with a potential partner it is important to do your homework and identify potential links:

- Who do you want to form a partnership with?
- What are the current communication channels?
- What can you offer a potential partner?
- What can a potential partner offer you?
- Are there other organisations you are associated with that can form a joint partnership with you and your new partner?



FORMAL LINKS

When initiating contact:

- Contact the school Principal first who will decide which staff member should be involved (Sports Co-ordinator)
- If there is no Sports Co-ordinator there will likely be a teacher or staff member in charge of your sport at the school
- Ask the Principal to notify this person of the upcoming meeting
- Arrange the initial meeting directly with the new contact person

NB: You may already be aware of who to contact in a school BUT you should always make contact with the Principal first and foremost!



FORMAL LINKS

At your first meeting there are questions that need to be discussed to go any further:

- What are the needs for your club?
- What are the needs for the school?

If these questions can not be answered and the school or club see no need, then the partnership is not possible at this stage!



FORMAL LINKS

If both parties agree for the need, then the following needs to be defined:

- What are the expected outcomes for the partnership?
- How will young people benefit?
- What resources are required?
- What commitments can be made?
- What are the other benefits?
- What will be the lines of communication?

FORMAL LINKS

After your initial meeting where needs have been identified, there are “AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION” to ensure a common goal for the partnership is established

Areas for Consideration (e.g.)

AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION	Club	School	Other
Communication			
X number of meetings per year between named persons.			
A specific person responsible for communicating directly with the school or club on a regular basis.			
Agreed time/dates for review of progress.	✓	✓	



MOU

(Memorandum of Understanding)

A MOU is just that, an UNDERSTANDING between two parties who have a commitment to:

- Work towards a COMMON GOAL (Purpose)
- A defined set of joint responsibilities (Conditions)

A MOU will not:

- Hold up in a court of law
- Allow or assist you to apply for funds

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

1. Title

- "Memorandum of Understanding"

2. Parties involved in the MOU.

- Opening statement to say who the agreement is between. "This Memorandum of Understanding is between _____ Club and _____ School." You can also include the contact details of each organisation

3. Background (Optional)

- This is a statement or paragraph stating the events leading up to this agreement being established. Why is an MOU required?

4. Purpose

- This is a statement or paragraph stating what is to be achieved through the establishment of an MOU

5. Conditions of Agreement

- These are the items of action that you have chosen to tackle together

6. Timeline

- A timeline needs to be developed and included so that the items of action DO get attended to

7. Review

- It is important to set a review date ideally for every 6 months, so that progress can be monitored

8. Sign Off

- This is the statement naming both parties and states all concerned agree to everything in the MOU e.g. "We _____ Club and _____ School agree to all conditions and actions in this Memorandum of Understanding"
- Finally at the bottom of the MOU there will be a need to provide the following details for those signing the MOU:
 - Name
 - Position
 - Organisation
 - Date
 - Signature



SCHOOL BASED CLUB

THIS IS APPROPRIATE WHEN A SCHOOL DECIDES TO SET UP A FORMAL CLUB STRUCTURE AND GAIN THE BENEFITS BY DOING SO!

INFORMATION ON THE SCHOOL BASED CLUB CONCEPT IS INCLUDED IN YOUR BOOKLETS.

Support from Sport Tasman

Sport Tasman has offices in Nelson, Blenheim, Richmond, Motueka and Westport.

You should never hesitate to ask for assistance with how to best implement this resource for your sport in your region.

We are here to help you.

Ph 03 546 7910



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