

Primary Schools Sports Hall Athletics initiative launched in Co Donegal

Sports Hall Athletics has proven to be one of the most successful fundamental and inclusive sports programmes available for children in Ireland, the range of activities including running throwing and jumping supports children in developing excellent agility, balance and coordination skills and provides the core development skills for children. It provides a proven introduction to the teaching of fundamental and core athletic skills and provides an ideal opportunity to introduce young people to athletics competition in a fun team based format.

Donegal Sports Partnership in association with Athletics Ireland, Donegal Athletics County Board, Cumann na mBunscoil Dhún na nGall and the Physical Education Curriculum Support Programme of the Department of Education have launched a pilot programme to support the development of fundamental sport in identified primary schools in Co Donegal.

The Sports Hall Athletics Initiative which is one of the first run in Ireland will provide children with opportunities to experience a range of sporting activities focusing on the key core principles of agility, balance and coordination.

The partnership programme will also provide coaches, teachers and parents with additional key skills in the delivery of children sport and physical activity in line with the physical education curriculum currently being delivered within primary school sector.

The structure of the programme is based on creating school club links with local athletics club personnel very much to the fore in the delivery and management of the programme.

Initially the programme will run in five identified areas throughout county Donegal with 29 schools taking part in the five week coaching programme.



Included in the photograph at a recent launch in the Finn Valley Athletic Club are Myles Sweeney Coordinator of Donegal Sports Partnership, Eamon Harvey Regional Development Officer with Athletics Ireland, John Barry O'Donnell from the Physical Education Curriculum Development Programme, Patsy McGonagle Chairman of Coaching and Manager of the International Athletics Team for Beijing Olympics 2006, David Doherty secretary of Donegal Athletics Board together with teachers and coaches involved in the programme.