

APPENDIX A

Analysis of Easter of Play responses

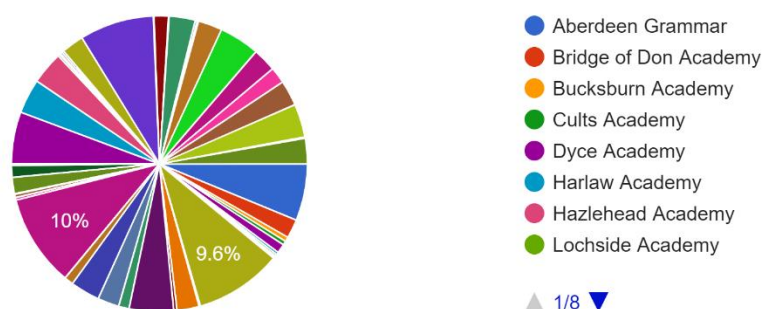


Electronic Survey

In early March, children and young people were invited to share their views by electronic survey on what an Easter of Play programme should offer. The survey was issued through schools and to targeted groups by members of the Easter of Play Strategic Group to ensure maximum coverage. The survey was open for one week and a total of 1403 responses were returned.

Children and young people attending all Aberdeen City schools participated. Just under 88% of responses (1234) were from children of primary school age with the remaining 12% responses (169) being from secondary school students.

Which school do you go to?
1,403 responses



Children and young people from 3 to 17 years responded. Children aged from 8 to 11 account for over half of all responses.

Activities requested by all children and young people.

Respondents had a clear view on the activities they were keen to engage in and clear parallels can be drawn with the views expressed by children and young people when asked to inform the Summer of Play 2021. Requests continue to span all socio-economic groups.

Swimming continues to be very popular with 57% of respondents keen to access swimming pools. The relaxation of restrictions will help ensure that higher numbers of children, young people and families are able to access pools over Easter. Learn to swim blocks were also requested by 40% of respondents after the success of this approach in summer 2021 and these should be factored into our planning.

High numbers of children asked that art activities be provided (63%). This may be as a result of the highly successful programme offered by Creative Learning over summer or could be influenced by the cooler weather over the Easter holiday period suggesting that a programme similar to summer should be arranged.

32% of respondents are keen to access coding activities. This is higher than the number requesting such activities over summer 2021. This shift in appetite is thought to be because of the full resumption of face-to-face learning in schools resulting in children and young people now spending slightly less time at a computer. The increased demand is likely also reflective of the successful CodeCraft programme offered over summer 2021. A similar programme should be offered for Easter.

Family science events continue to be a popular choice with 49% of respondents expressing a desire to attend. There was a notable increase in the number of comments asking for family activities, which we will try to take account of across the programme. The relaxations of restrictions and ability to host events across Aberdeen's public parks will help meet these requests.

Family sporting sessions like access to ice skating, tubing and footgolf remain popular with 56% of children and young people who responded keen to attend Family sporting activities. Physical activity is key to supporting the positive mental health of children, young people and families and such opportunities should be built into the Easter offer.

High numbers of children and young people would welcome outdoor environmental activities (57%) with one child asking for opportunities to learn, 'about nature and animals'. Our Ranger and Countryside Ranger Service should be commissioned to provide an offer over Easter.

54% of children and young people would welcome access to more adventurous activities such as paddle boarding and mountain biking and these suggestions will be passed for Sport Aberdeen to influence the development of the programme.

General sport sessions (football, basketball etc.) remain popular with 48% of respondents with a proportion (38%) keen to attend sports camps offering a mixture of sports. Library based activities were requested by 25% of respondents.

As well as the activities which drew a large number of responses above, there were some requests from smaller numbers of children and young people. A number of children asked that Easter Egg Hunts or scavenger hunts be available to them, and the Museum and Galleries team are delighted to oblige in developing and operating new trials in keeping with the ideas for the survey. The team are also keen to respond positively to the many requests from children and young people to attend events at museums and are extending their proposed Easter programme to meet these wishes. This is thought to be partly attributed to successful cultural events

held in the city such as Spectra. The Museum and Galleries team very much look forward to welcoming children, young people and Families over Easter.

Some ideas such as opportunities to, 'build model rockets and launch them' will be passed to those being commissioned to provide the programme in the hope that these ideas can shape the activities on offer. Other requests such as those for curling and cooking will be built into the programme for the first time if possible. The Strategic Group will try to reflect the wishes of all children and young people in our plans. Sadly some requests such as the request for, 'monster truck driving', are less deliverable.

One senior pupil who returned the survey asked for 'senior pupil activities'. The smaller number of respondents in this age group, and appreciation that the Summer Of Play offer seemed to attract less young people in this age category, led to a series of focus groups being established to understand the ask of this group more fully.

Barriers to participation

Children and young people were asked to identify any barriers which would prevent them from participating in the Easter of Play. The most common response was relating to cost with respondents asking that the activities be, 'low cost or no cost' have, 'cheap prices' or, 'be free and cover a wide age range'. Some children made the link to the accessibility of opportunities expressing that, 'activities in our area would be brilliant where we can just walk to them'. There were also requests to, 'have things that you will need for the activities included with the activity.'

As a result, no cost will be levied for any activities for the Easter of Play but consideration will be given to applying a small charge to those out with our priority groups for the Summer of Play 2022 in order to build a fully sustainable model.

The location of activities drew a more mixed response than for the Summer of Play 2021. This is thought to be partially due to the free bus travel introduced over the last few months and greater availability of public transport now compared to over summer. One child said, 'local activities are best, but we have a free bus pass'. Another said, 'locate all activities in the same area and ask if older children can volunteer to help'. Given that our senior pupils may be studying for exams it doesn't feel appropriate to ask for their support for this programme, but this will be considered for summer. Some children made specific requests such as, 'for the swimming to be at Tullos swimming pool'. A number of children volunteered their parents to support them to get to the activities, 'My mum will take me to where the activities are taking place.' As a result of this feedback, a mixture of locations will be used across the city and in our priority neighbourhoods.

The timing of activities was also referred to by respondents. One child asked that the sessions should, 'not be very early morning starts', with another asking that sessions be on, 'at a reasonable time' Others asked that some sessions run for longer periods than in summer 2021. Generally, the feeling was that there should be choice and, 'various time schedules,' with one senior student requesting that, 'activity is held at a good time when I'm not revising'. This will be a key

consideration when planning the programme. The timings of activities will be lengthened where possible.

Additional support needs and those with disabilities continued to be a theme with the ask for, '[relaxed sessions as I don't like being around too many people](#)'. We Too have agreed to work in partnership with Aberdeen City Council again to meet this need, with consideration being given to a more specialised offer for those with more complex needs.

Some children and young people highlighted challenges for families because of having to make single bookings for multiple children with a request that we, '[open to siblings depending on age](#)' and that, '[activities should be open to siblings as it's easier for my family](#)'. Other respondents asked for access to, '[something that would involve other children from my class](#)'. Changes to the booking system for Easter are being explored but significant rebuilds may be unachievable for Easter. If this proves impossible for Easter consideration will be given to how to take account of this feedback in the longer-term planning.

Choice remains important to the children and young people of Aberdeen as well as a long notice period so that they can plan their time around their Easter of Play sessions. One child noted that, '[advance warning will help parents to take annual leave or book parent free sessions.](#)'

Some children and young people didn't perceive any challenges or barriers in attending, stating simply that, '[I don't think I would need any help,](#)' and, '[I think it's quite easy already.](#)'

Others identified very personal needs such as the need to, '[I need to fix a flat tire on my bike.](#)' We will offer bike repair sessions to ensure that this young person can get his/her bike back on the road.

Officers will work to make the offer public as soon as possible and will consider a longer lead in time for Summer 2022.

Focus Groups of young people aged 14+

The group least involved in the Summer of Play were those aged 14+. A number of focus groups were held in order to understand the needs of this group more fully to support our planning.

The key theme which emerged was young people didn't know about the offer and believed that the offer was made only to younger children. Young people asked that information be shared with them directly through school so that they could book activities.

The activities being requested were broadly in line with those requested by other year groups although the young people understandably wanted to know that they would be participating with others of a similar age.

The young people did raise the term, 'Easter of Play' suggests that the programme is for younger children and this will be taken into account in planning for summer.