

## SCHOOL SPORTS FOR ALL?

### Physical Education in British schools

Sport is an important part of the school curriculum in the UK. In secondary school, students do **around** two hours of PE every week. Secondary schools in England usually have sports halls for **indoor** sports, and **playing fields** for **outdoor** sports. Sport isn't optional – all students do it. It is an important life skill.

### What sports are popular in British schools?

Schools offer a variety of sports in PE lessons, and they can choose the sports they do. Popular sports are football, rugby, netball, gymnastics, cricket and hockey. Schools can decide to have the same sports for boys and girls or different sports. They can also choose the same sports, but with separate games for boys and girls.

### Girls and boys like the same sports

A recent **survey** shows that the favourite sports for boys and girls are very similar; football is number one, then swimming, tennis and cricket. Both boys and girls also have rugby, gymnastics, badminton and golf in their lists of top ten favourite sports.

### Boys and girls can't always do the same sports

But what do schools choose to do in reality? Do boys and girls do the same sports and do they do those sports together? The answer is 'not usually'. Only 43% of girls can do the same sports as boys. A lot of girls can't choose football, cricket or rugby at school. As a result, some girls don't enjoy sports lessons. In fact, only 56% of girls like PE lessons in Britain compared to 71% of boys.

### Sport on TV

Girls don't often see women's sport on TV or read about women's sport in the newspapers. In the UK, 90% of sport on TV is men's sport, but in the results of a big, global survey, 84% of male and female sports fans describe women's sports as interesting. The main TV channels and newspapers can see that there is an **audience** for women's sport now – it's time for change.

### Glossary

around *circa*  
indoor *al chiuso*  
playing fields *campi da gioco*  
outdoor *all'aperto*  
survey *sondaggio*  
audience *pubblico*

## Reading


1 **SEE • THINK • WONDER** Look at the photos and do the activities.

- 1 **SEE** What sports can you see?
- 2 **THINK** Which sports do you like? Which sports can you play? *I like ... I can play ...*
- 3 **WONDER** What do you think the text is about? *I think it's about ...*


2  169 **ES** Read and listen. Answer the questions.

- 1 Where do students play outdoor sports?
- 2 What is the favourite sport for boys and for girls?
- 3 What percentage of girls do the same sports as boys at school?
- 4 What percentage of sport on TV in the UK is men's sport?


## Listening

3  170 **I** Listen to three conversations. While listening, match the conversations (1–3) to the relationships between the speakers (a–d). There is one relationship that you do not need.

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| a ___ adult and child | c ___ two friends      |
| b ___ two adults      | d ___ parent and child |

4  170 **I** Listen again and answer the questions.

- |                                       |                                |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Where are Rick and Tim?             | 4 What time does school start? |
| 2 Why can't they see the match?       | 5 Can Rachel ride a bike well? |
| 3 What does Josh need for sports day? | 6 Where is Rachel's dad?       |

5  171 Listen to the same audio with a different accent. Can you hear the difference?



### Listening tip

#### Dedurre il significato

Qualche volta devi dare informazioni che non sono menzionate in modo esplicito. Prova a fare supposizioni logiche, per esempio, ascolta le parole che indicano rapporti personali come *Mum, Dad, Mrs* o *Sir*. Ascolta il tono della voce – è rilassato e amichevole oppure viene usato un linguaggio formale?

## Writing

6 Look at the fact file and complete the text about Steph Houghton.



### FACT FILE

**NAME:** Steph Houghton  
**BIRTHDAY:** 23 April 1988  
**FROM:** Durham, England  
**PROFESSION:** Football player


**TEAMS:** England women's football team/Manchester City  
**OTHER INFORMATION:**



My sporting hero is Steph Houghton. Steph is <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ years old and she's from <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ in England. She plays <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. She plays for the England women's football team and for <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. She can run really fast and she can score goals easily. I like her because I play for the girl's football team.

7 **K** **Your turn** Make a fact file about your sporting hero. Then write a short paragraph about him/her. Use the fact file and the text in Ex 6 to help you.

## Speaking

8  **Pairwork** Use your fact file from Ex 7 to ask and answer about your sporting heroes.  
*Who's your sporting hero? Lewis Hamilton.*

