











'Belonging, Being, Becoming'

The IMPORTANCE of Physical Activity

How much physical activity should children and young people aged 5 to 18 do to keep healthy?

Children and young people need to do 2 types of physical activity each week:

- aerobic exercise
- exercises to strengthen their muscles and bones

Children and young people aged 5 to 18 should:

- aim for an average of at least **60** minutes of moderate or vigorous intensity physical activity a day across the week
- take part in a variety of types and intensities of physical activity across the week to develop movement skills, muscles and bones
- reduce the time spent sitting or lying down and break up long periods of not moving with some activity. Aim to spread activity throughout the day

#### What counts as moderate activity?

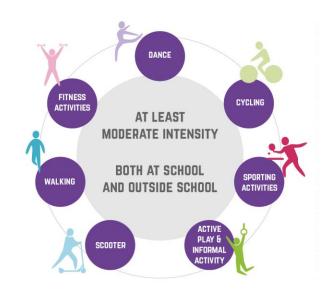
Moderate intensity activities will raise your heart rate, and make you breathe faster and feel warmer.

One way to tell if you're working at a moderate intensity level is if you can still talk, but not sing.

Children and young people should do a range of different activities across the week.

#### Examples include:

- · walking to school or walking the dog
- playground activities, including jumping, running and catching
- physical education
- sports, like football or tennis
- swimming
- skipping
- dancing
- skateboarding or rollerblading
- cycling



## What activities strengthen muscles and bones?

# Examples include:

- gymnastics
- football
- jumping
- martial arts
- sit-ups, press-ups and other similar exercises (for young people)
- resistance exercises with exercise bands, weight machines or handheld weights (for young people)

## Exercising safely

Children and young people should:

- get medical advice about exercising if they have a health condition
- do exercise that is suitable for their age, ability and experience
- start any new exercise slowly and increase it bit by bit
- · use protective equipment, for example for cycling and skateboarding



# Benefits of Physical Activity





Raised heart rate to 170 bpm 40-60 mins, 3-4x per week = 5-10% improvement in aerobic fitness in 8-12 weeks.



Resistance training 2 or 3x per week improves muscle strength and endurance.



Every 15 mins of exercise improves academic performance by an average of about a quarter of a grade.



30 minutes of cardio exercise per day boosts confidence, reduces stress and anxiety.



Exercise between the ages of 11-18 increases bone density, particularly in the spine and hip.



30 minutes on the treadmill boosts problem solving by up to 10%

#### REGULAR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY



Helps build and maintain healthy bones, muscles and joints



Helps reduce the risk of developing obesity and chronic diseases



Helps to achieve and maintain a healthy body weight.



Improves the quantity and quality of sleep



Greater self-esteem and better self-image



Improves coordination and motor skills