

# 24-hour Movement Behaviours & Health in Children & Young People

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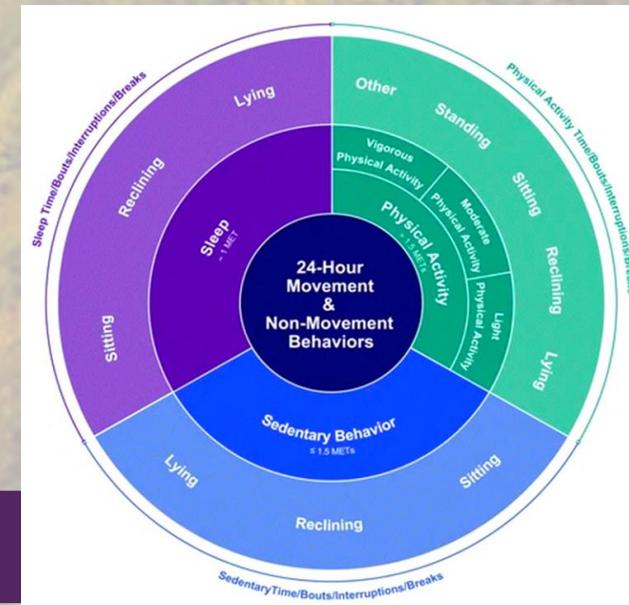
*Dept. Sport & Physical Activity*

*Health Research Institute*

*International Centre for Applied Research with Children,*

*Young People, Pregnant Women & Families*

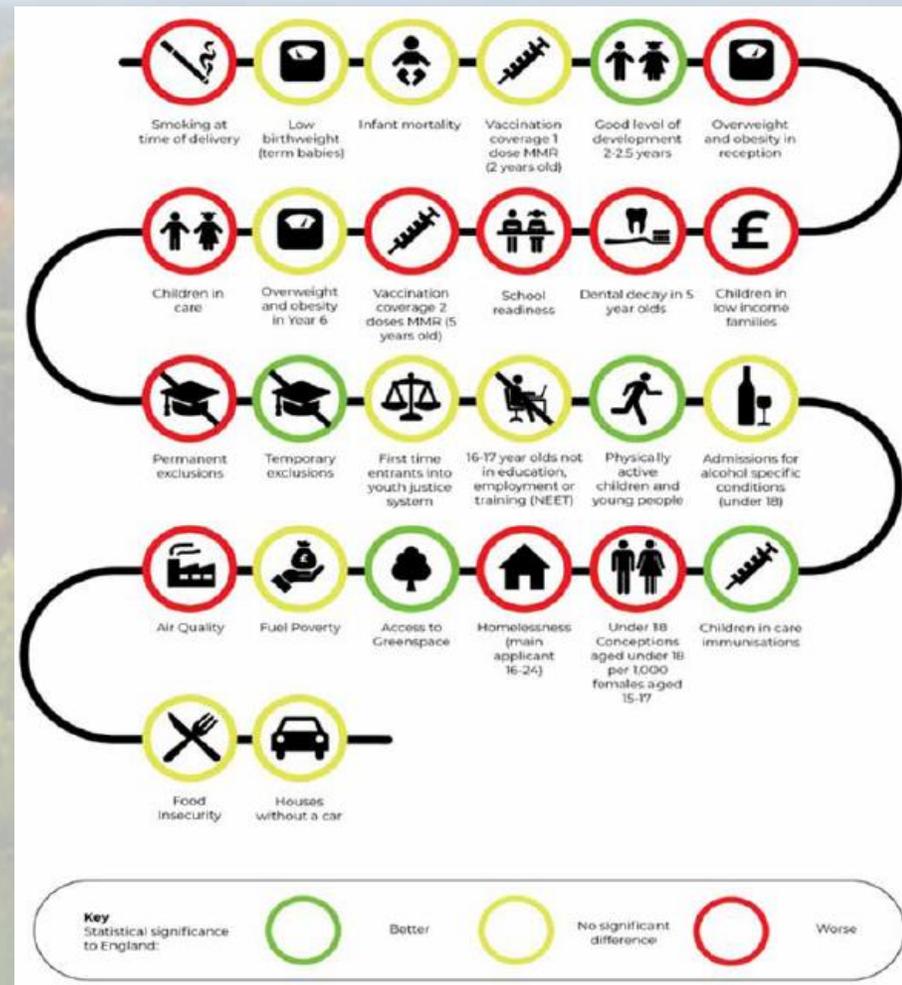
*Edge Hill University*



# Research alignment with Wigan Public Health priorities for CYP

## Key JNSA Priorities for Future Action

- Children and young people, particularly obesity prevention
  - Potentially through 24hMBs and integration of high-quality data to enhance future prevention programming and JSNA updates
- Healthy Lifestyles
- Reducing Health Inequalities



# Methodological focus – assessing movement behaviours

- **Reliance on self-report methods**

- Data trustworthiness & quality
- Wigan sample ~2.6% of the CYP population
- No data on sleep & sedentary behaviours

- **24hMB assessment using accelerometers/wearables**

- Complex & multidimensional behaviours
- As outcomes or exposures
- Promising as biomarkers for health risks
  - e.g., depression
- PA dimensions differentially associated with health outcomes
  - e.g., PA volume & subjective health, PA intensity & physical health, running & fitness, etc
- Great potential across all CYP age groups (including clinical populations)

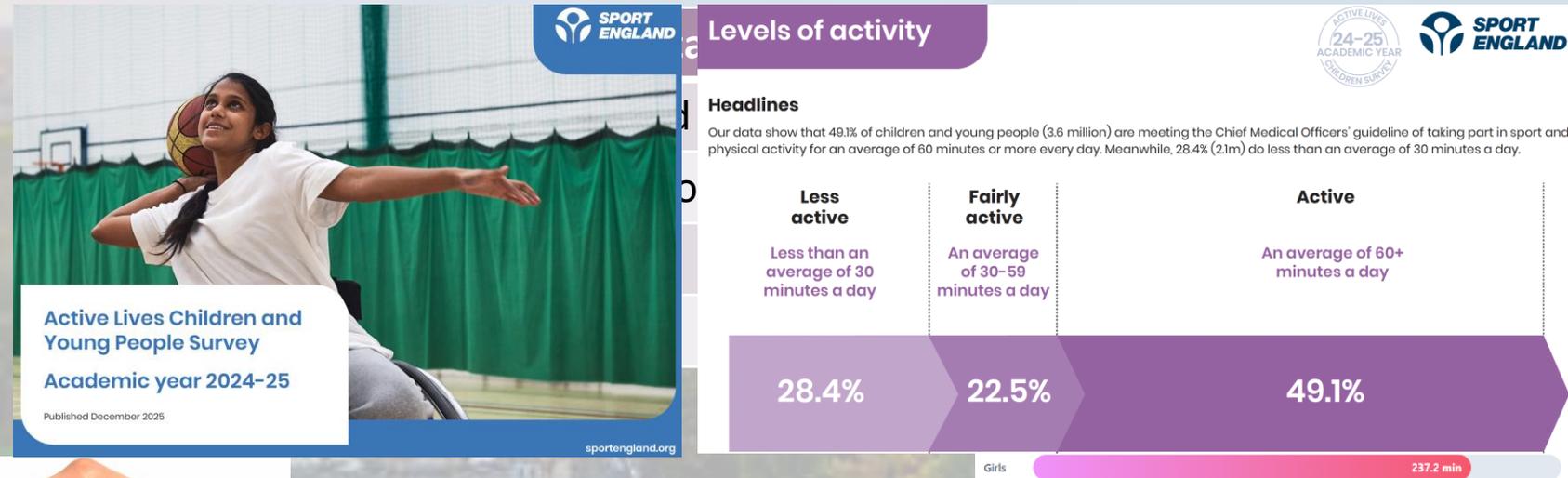


Table 3: Sport and Physical Activity Levels (Children and Young People in school years 1-11) By Local Authorities

Local Authority	Academic Year 2017-18 Respondents	Population total	Rate (%)	Academic Year 2024-25					
				tes or more a day) <sup>1</sup>	Fairly active (an average of 30-59 minutes a day) <sup>1</sup>		95% confidence interval		
				Lower	Upper	Population total	Rate (%)	Lower	Upper
E08000010 Wigan	588	1,081	52.6%	49.1%	56.0%	9,400	22.3%	19.4%	25.5%

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Article | Open access | Published: 25 November 2025

**Feasibility of accelerometer-based prediction of postural balance in schoolchildren using machine learning models**

JMIR Formative Research

Journal Information | Browse Journal

Published on 24 Jun 2022 in Vol 6, No 6 (2022): June

Preprints (earlier versions) of this paper are available at <https://preprints.jmir.org/preprint/35807>, first published 17 Dec 2021.

**Predicting Depression in Adolescents Using Mobile and Wearable Sensors: Multimodal Machine Learning-Based Exploratory Study**

Tahsin Mullick | Ana Radovic | Sam Shaaban | Afaneh Doryab



# Application to 24-hour movement behaviours & health

JOURNAL Fairclough et al. *Journal of Activity, Sedentary and Sleep Behaviors* (2023) 2:11  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s44167-023-00021-9>

Journal of Activity, Sedentary and Sleep Behaviors  
 Check for updates

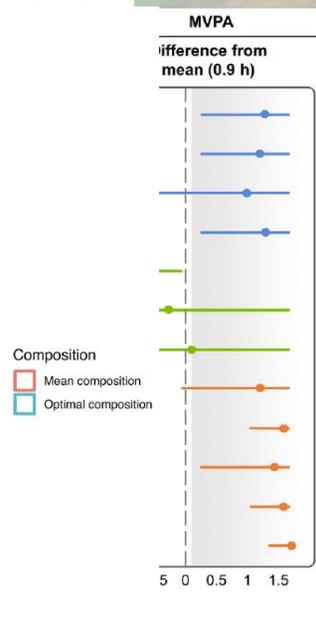
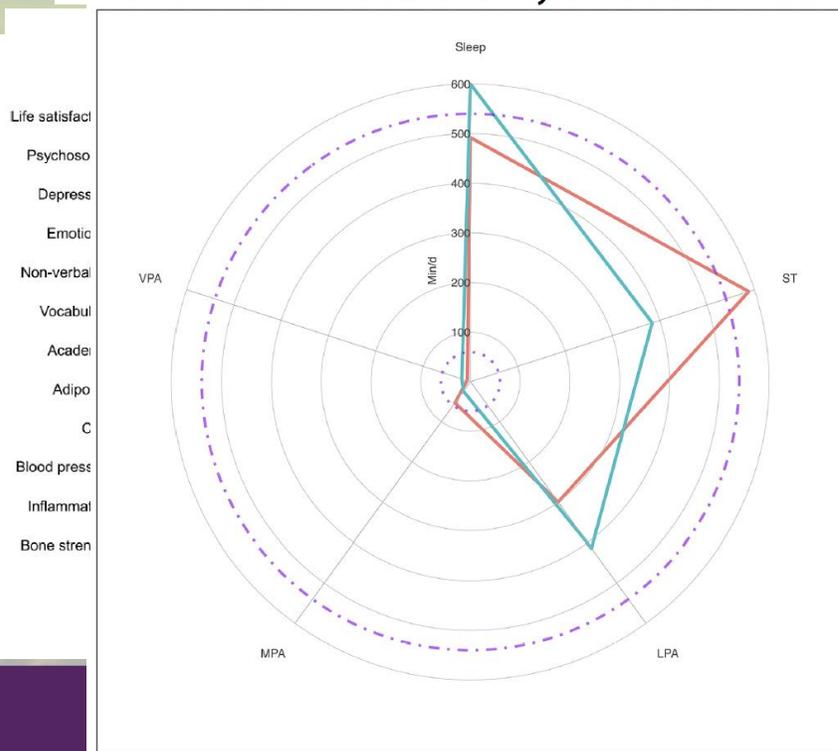
Go RESEARCH Open Access e for

Characteristics of 24-hour movement behaviours and their associations with mental health in children and adolescents

Stuart J. Fairclough<sup>1\*</sup>, Lauren Clifford<sup>1</sup>, Denver Brown<sup>2</sup> and Richard Tyler<sup>1</sup>



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3,8 Ha Le,<sup>2,9</sup>



# Physical activity dimensions & health – translation to inform prescription, policy, practice

Scandinavian Journal of Medicine & Science in Sports

Fairclough et al. *Journal of Activity, Sedentary and Sleep Behaviors*  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s44167-025-00091-x>

**RESEARCH**

## Trajectories of children's volume and intensity at the Ready, Set, Move project

Stuart J. Fairclough<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Lauren Clifford<sup>3</sup>, Jordan Banks<sup>4</sup>, Denver M. Y. Brown<sup>5</sup>, Alex V. Rowlands<sup>6,7,8</sup> and Mhairi M.

Fairclough et al. *Int J Behav Nutr Phys Act* (2023) 20:35  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12966-023-01435-z>

**RESEARCH**

## Reference values for wrist-worn accelerometer physical activity metrics in England children and adolescents

Stuart J. Fairclough<sup>1</sup>, Alex V. Rowlands<sup>2,3</sup>, Borja del Pozo Cruz<sup>4,5,6</sup>, Matteo Crotti<sup>7</sup>, Lawrence Fowweather<sup>8</sup>, Lee E. F. Graves<sup>8</sup>, Liezel Hurter<sup>8</sup>, Owen Jones<sup>8</sup>, Mhairi MacDonald<sup>1</sup>, Deborah A. McCann<sup>8</sup>, Caitlin Miller<sup>1</sup>, Robert J. Noonan<sup>9</sup>, Michael B. Owen<sup>10</sup>, James R. Rudd<sup>11</sup>, Sarah L. Taylor<sup>8</sup>, Richard Tyler<sup>1</sup> and Lynne M. Boddy<sup>8\*</sup>

**Summer Term**



### Physical Activity Project

Barden Primary School

This data is representative of 41 Year 4 children at Barden Primary School. This data was collected in the Summer Term 2024 by the research team at Edge Hill University in partnership with Together an Active Future (TaAF) to gain child-level health and wellbeing data.

**Weight Status**

From the measures of height and weight, the children's Body Mass Index (BMI) was calculated.

Weight Status	All (n=41)	Girls	Boys
Underweight	5%	4%	6%
Healthy	59%	54%	65%
Overweight	29%	33%	24%
Obese	7%	8%	6%

Age- and sex-specific reference points were used to provide a percentage of children classed as healthy and unhealthy weight

International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity

**Open Access**

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**Sleep Monitoring**

only **7%** of children got the recommended amount of sleep per night (9-12hrs)

recommended 9-12 hrs

average 7hrs 38mins sleep

22:47 Time of sleep onset

85% Sleep quality

**Sedentary Time**

Sedentary behaviours involve being in a sitting, reclining or lying posture during waking hours, undertaking little movement and using little energy above what is used at rest.

The national guidelines state that children should aim to minimise the amount of time spent sedentary for extended periods, and accumulate no more than 2 hours per day of recreational screen time

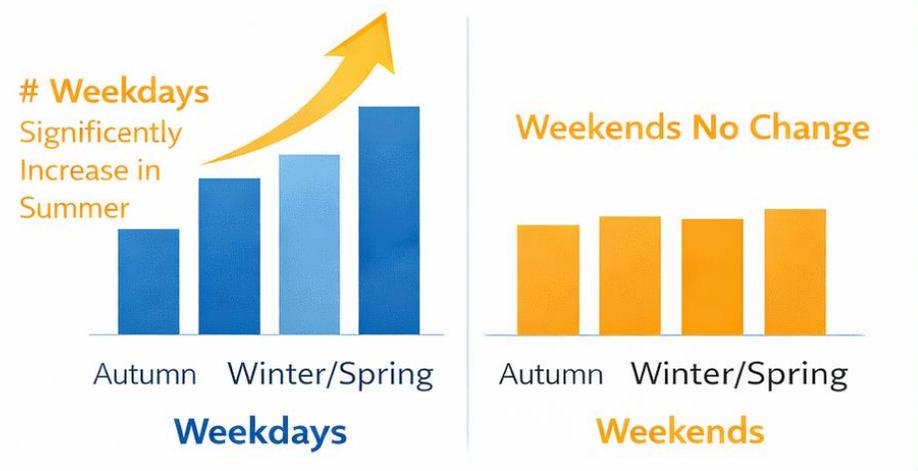
In 24 hours 11hrs 46m

In a School day 4hrs 15m

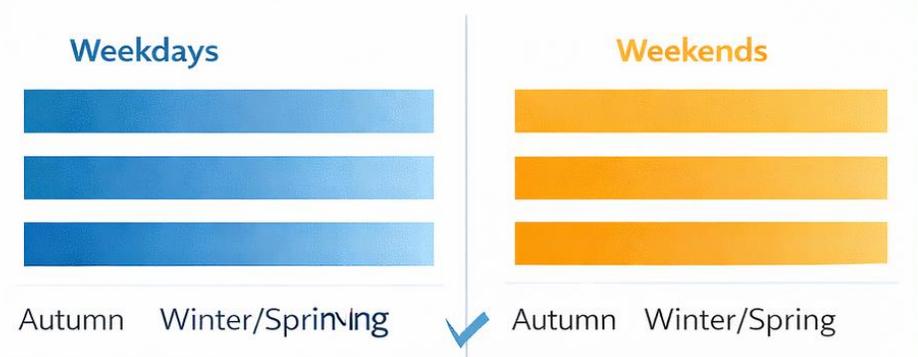
The data presented above is representative of 28 children (13 boys/15 girls) who wore the accelerometers for at least 16 hours/day on at least 3 days. Accelerometers are wearable devices that measure accelerations of body movement. This is an approved measure for physical activity widely used with children and young people.

**Mental Health & Wellbeing**

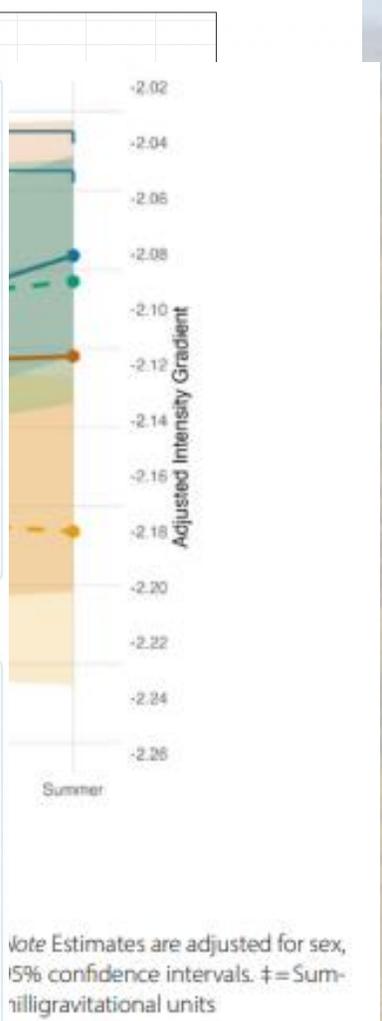
### Physical Activity Volume



### Physical Activity Intensity



Stable Across the Year



Note: Estimates are adjusted for sex, 95% confidence intervals. † = Summation of gravitational units

To see a further breakdown of your school's results, including the differences between boys and girls across measures, please see your school's full report for Summer Term 2024.

# Combining methods & data sources to inform intervention development – Sleep, mental health, screen-use and academic attainment

## Sleep: The Hidden Factor in Student Success and Wellbeing

A two-year longitudinal study of young people reveals that declining sleep is significantly associated with poorer mental health, lower academic attainment, and key lifestyle factors.

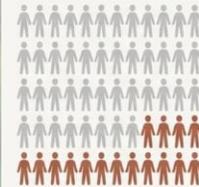


Based on a longitudinal study of ~250 students across four time points from Autumn 2023 to Summer 2025.

## Insufficient Sleep is Strongly Linked to Elevated Emotional Difficulties

Students not meeting the 9-hour sleep guideline were nearly three times more likely to report elevated emotional difficulties. (p=0.0019)

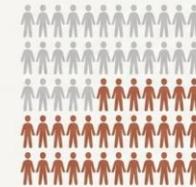
### Sufficient Sleep (Met 9-hour guideline)



13.7%

reported elevated emotional difficulties.

### Insufficient Sleep (Did not meet guideline)

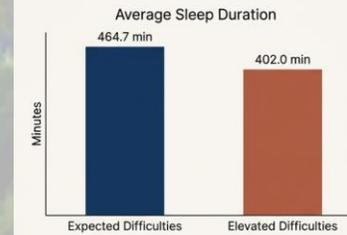


37.9%

reported elevated emotional difficulties.

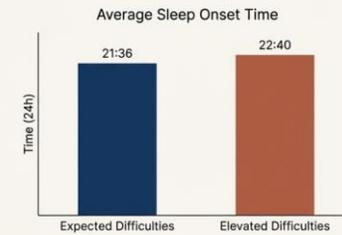
## Duration and Timing Also Matter for Behavioural Health

### An Hour Less Sleep



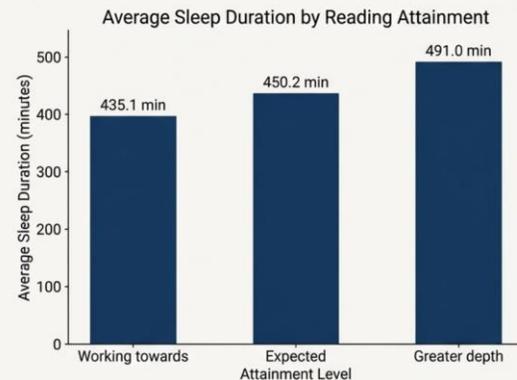
Students with elevated behavioural difficulties slept, on average, 62 minutes less per night. (p=0.00103)

### An Hour Later Bedtime



Their bedtimes were, on average, 64 minutes later. (p=0.0027)

## Longer Sleep Duration is Directly Associated with Higher Academic Attainment



A clear, dose-response relationship exists: the higher the attainment level, the longer the average sleep duration.

This statistically significant pattern (p<0.05) was observed for Reading, Writing, and Science.

The gap between "Working towards" and "Greater depth" in Reading is nearly one hour (56 minutes).

## A Consistent Link Appears Between Poorer Sleep and Higher Screen Use



### Later Bedtimes, Higher Screen Use

A clear dose-response was found between weekend screen time and later bedtimes, with students reporting 2 hours of screen use going to bed nearly 90 minutes later than those with zero screen use (22:09 vs 20:41). (p=0.0204, T3)



### Lower Quality Sleep, Higher Screen Use

Students who failed to meet screen time guidelines (≤1hr/day) had significantly lower sleep efficiency than those who did meet them (75.9% vs 81.6%). (p=0.0137, T4)



### Sufficient Sleep, Lower Screen Use

Students meeting the 9-hour sleep guideline were nearly four times as likely to report zero weekend screen time compared to their peers who did not meet the guideline (15.7% vs 4.1%). (p=0.0325, T1)

# Intervention development and evaluation

Fairclough et al. BMC Public Health 2013, 13:626  
http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/13/626



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access

Promoting healthy weight in primary school

Article

Evaluation of a Pilot School-Based Physical Activity  
Clustered Randomised Controlled Trial – Acti

Schools (K-12)

Article

Co-Creation of a School-Based Motor Competence and Mental  
Health Intervention: Move Well, Feel Good

Lauren Clifford<sup>1\*</sup>, Richard Tyler<sup>1</sup>, Zoe Knowles<sup>2</sup>, Emma Ashworth<sup>3</sup>, Lynne Boddy<sup>2</sup>,  
Lawrence Foweather<sup>2</sup> and Stuart J. Fairclough<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>, Bronagh McGrane<sup>3</sup>,

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Move Well, Feel Good: Feasibility and acceptability of a school-based motor competence intervention to promote positive mental health

Stuart J. Fairclough<sup>1\*</sup>, Lauren Clifford<sup>1</sup>, Lawrence Foweather<sup>2</sup>, Zoe R. Knowles<sup>2</sup>,  
Lynne M. Boddy<sup>2</sup>, Emma Ashworth<sup>3</sup>, Richard Tyler<sup>1</sup>

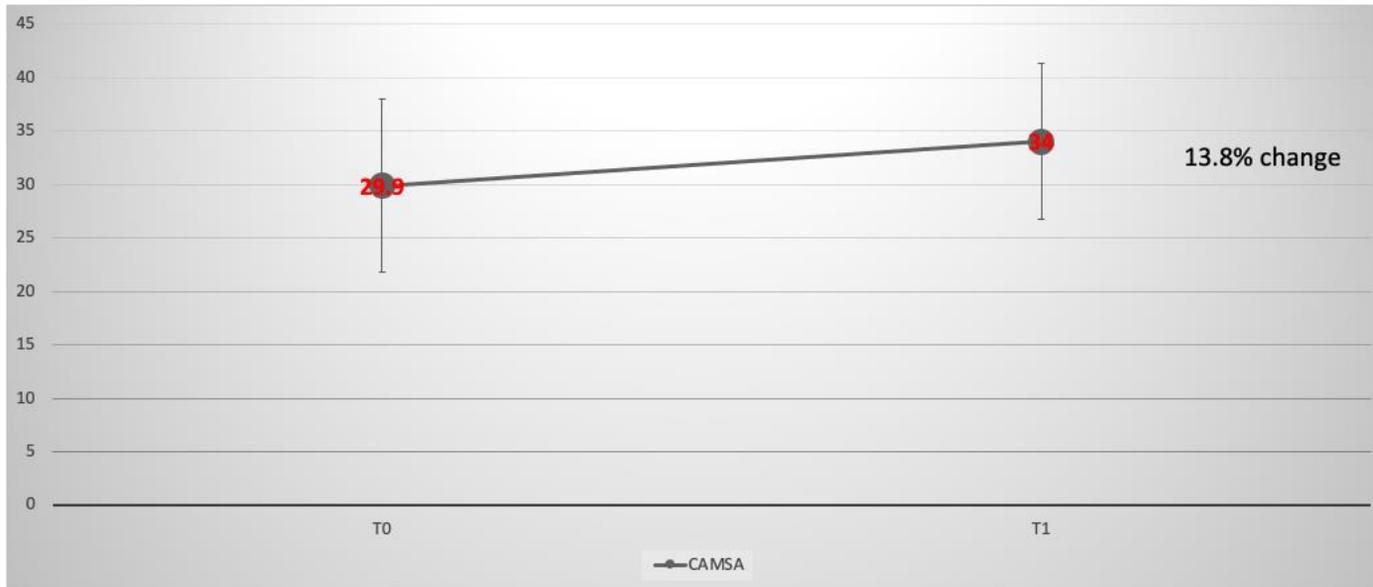
BCCP



, worksheets, and



## Secondary outcome results – motor competence



Program Area: Obesity Management

Suitable Settings: Schools (K-College)

Community Type: Not Specified

C

Baseline Post-intervention Follow-up

Emily Hamblin, Andrew Fellowes and Keith Clements  
May 2017

Figure 2 Adjusted means (SE) of body size outcomes across each time point. a: waist circumference; b: BMI; c: BMI z-score.

# How might we work together?

- We have nationally- and internationally-recognised expertise in these areas
- We would like to use our expertise in collaboration with Wigan colleagues to further the public health goals of Wigan Council, WWL, and other Wigan stakeholders
- Ideally this would be driven through internal/joint/external multidisciplinary funding applications
- Feel free to get in touch!

**Profile & outputs:** <https://research.edgehill.ac.uk/en/persons/stuart-fairclough/>



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THANKS FOR  
LISTENING