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# ARRIVAL ACTIVITY

What do you most want children to gain from primary physical education?

- Top 3 things – make an individual list
- Compare your list to someone else on your table



# ASSESSING MOVEMENT COMPETENCE IN THE PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Dr Jordan Wintle  
& Keiran Montagu**

# WORKSHOP AIMS

- To develop an understanding of why movement competence is foundational to high-quality primary physical education.
- To explore practical, reliable and developmentally appropriate approaches to assessing movement competence.
- To examine how Athlete Tracker can inform teaching, adaptive practice, and targeted pupil support.
- Think - Act - Change

# MOTOR COMPETENCE

“Motor competence can be described as a person’s ability to execute a variety of motor actions, including the coordination of fine and gross motor skills. These are necessary to participate in activities in everyday life, including play and physical activity”  
**(Ofsted, 2022)**



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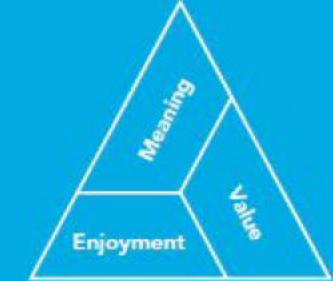
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# WHY MOVEMENT COMPETENCE MATTERS

**Physical literacy  
is our relationship  
with movement  
and physical activity  
throughout life.**

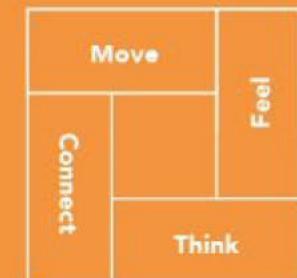
## A personal relationship

Having a positive and meaningful association with movement and physical activity.



## Movement and physical activity

How we move (physical), connect (social), think (cognitive) and feel (affective) during movement and physical activity plays a crucial role.



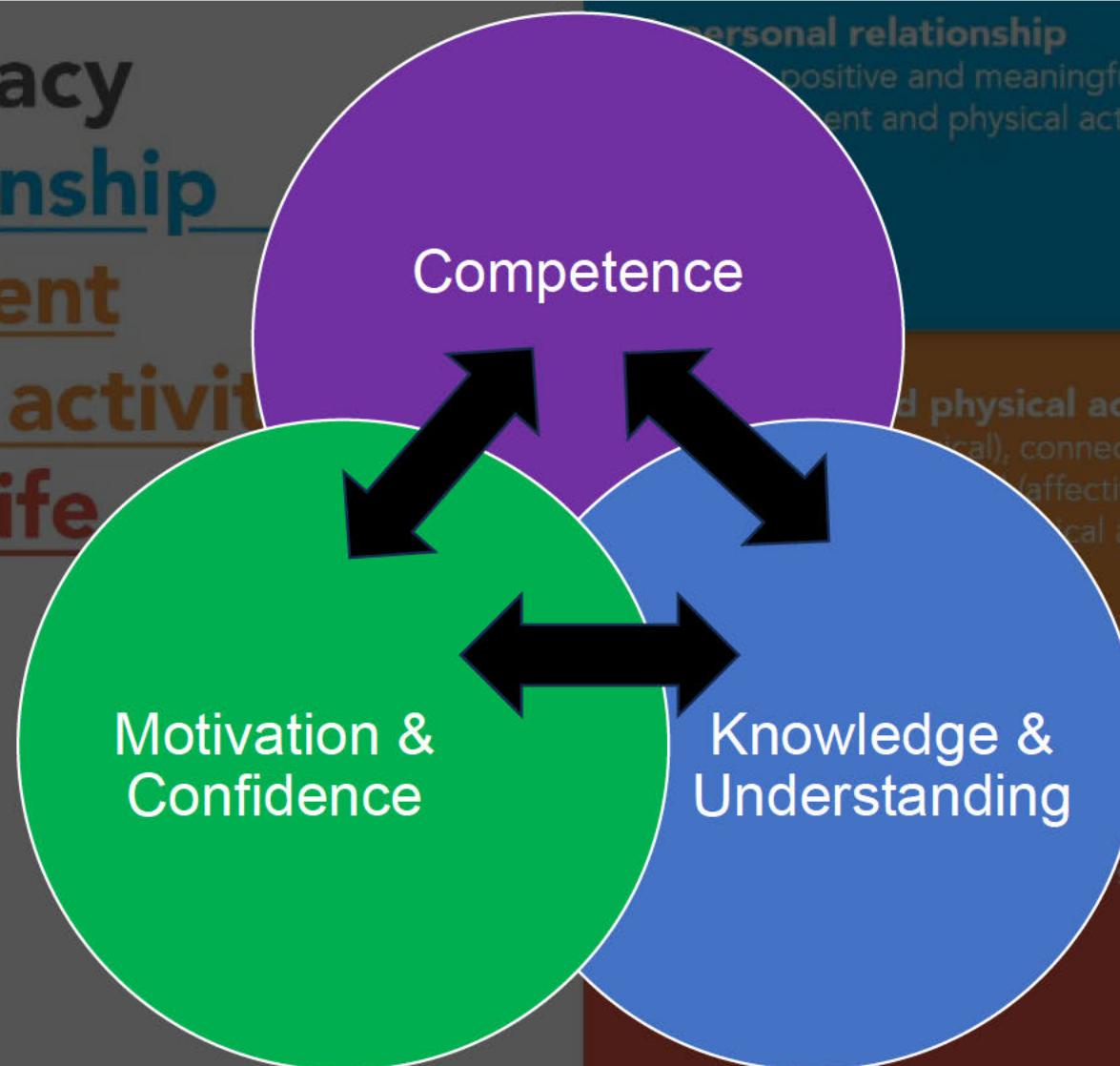
## Throughout life

Influenced across the lifecourse by individual, social and environmental factors.



# WHY MOVEMENT COMPETENCE MATTERS

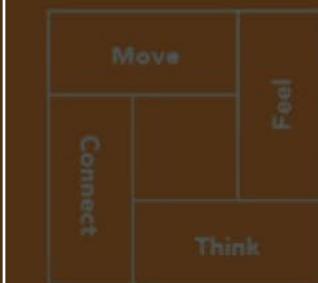
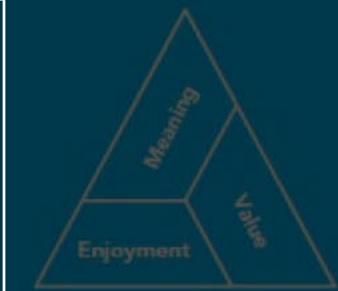
Physical literacy  
is our relationship  
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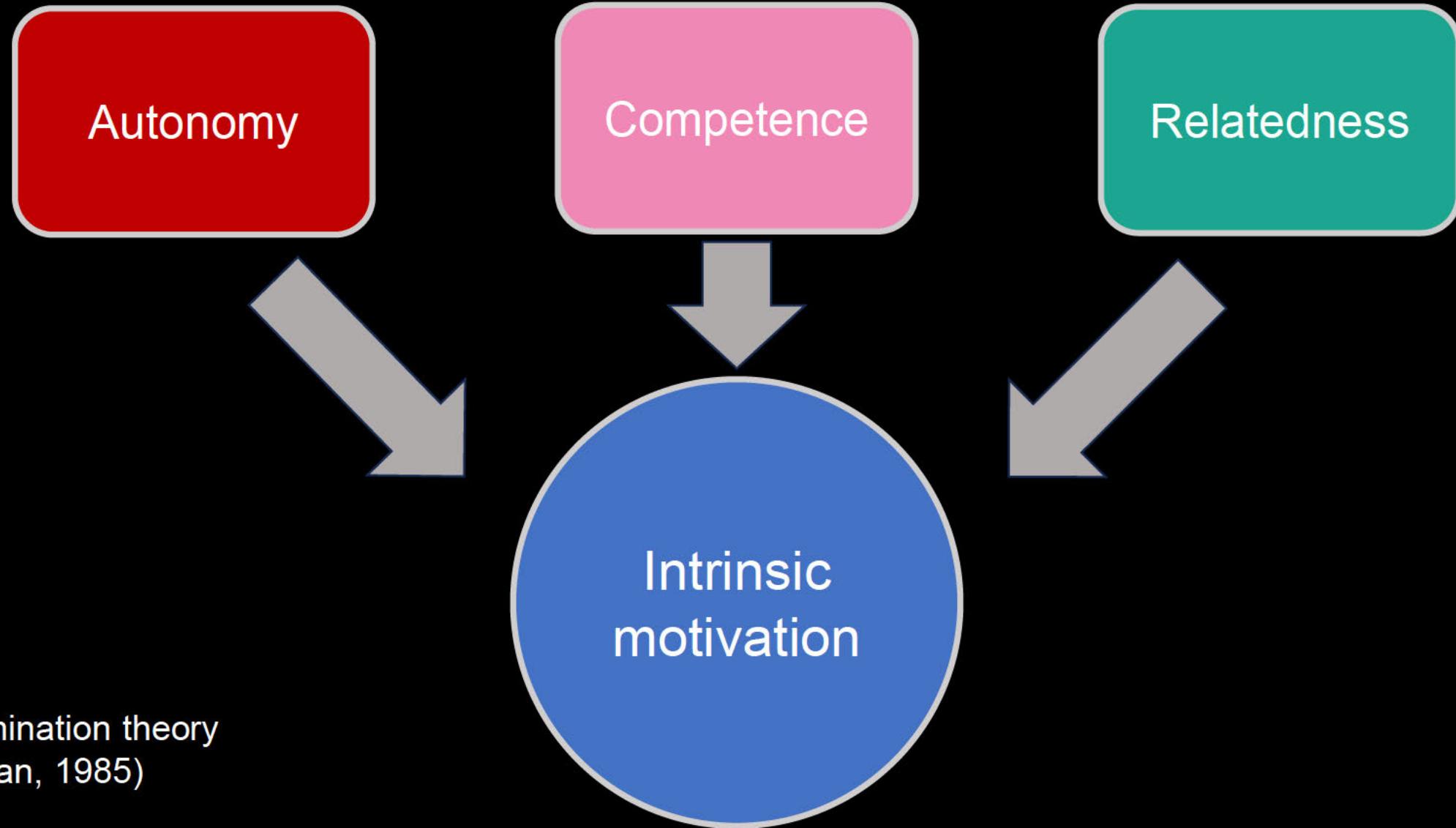
personal relationship  
positive and meaningful association  
between movement and physical activity.

and physical activity  
(physical), connect (social),  
(affective)  
physical activity

by individual,  
S.



# WHY MOVEMENT COMPETENCE MATTERS



Self-determination theory  
(Deci & Ryan, 1985)

# MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCES

(Beni, et al., 2017)

SOCIAL  
INTERACTION

CHALLENGE

MOTOR  
COMPETENCE

FUN

PERSONAL  
RELEVANCE

DELIGHT



# WHY MOVEMENT COMPETENCE MATTERS

Children who move better, move more, experience greater meaning in movement, and therefore, have greater access to the multitude of benefits associated with physical activity involvement – including physical, social, academic and psychological elements.

(Bailey et al., 2013; Barnett et al., 2016; Biddle et al., 2015; Côté & Vierimaa, 2015; Department for Education, 2025; Engel et al., 2018; Fletcher et al., 2021; Haga, 2009; Howie & Pate, 2012; James et al., 2023; Logan et al., 2015; Martín-Rodríguez et al., 2024; Tahira, 2022; Wang et al., 2023; Wilhite et al., 2023; Wilson et al., 2022; Zuckerman et al., 2022)

# ASSESSMENT IN PRIMARY PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## Current Assessment:

- What do you currently assess (if anything)
- How do you monitor progress
- What works well?
- What feels unclear or inconsistent?
- What prevents impactful assessment?

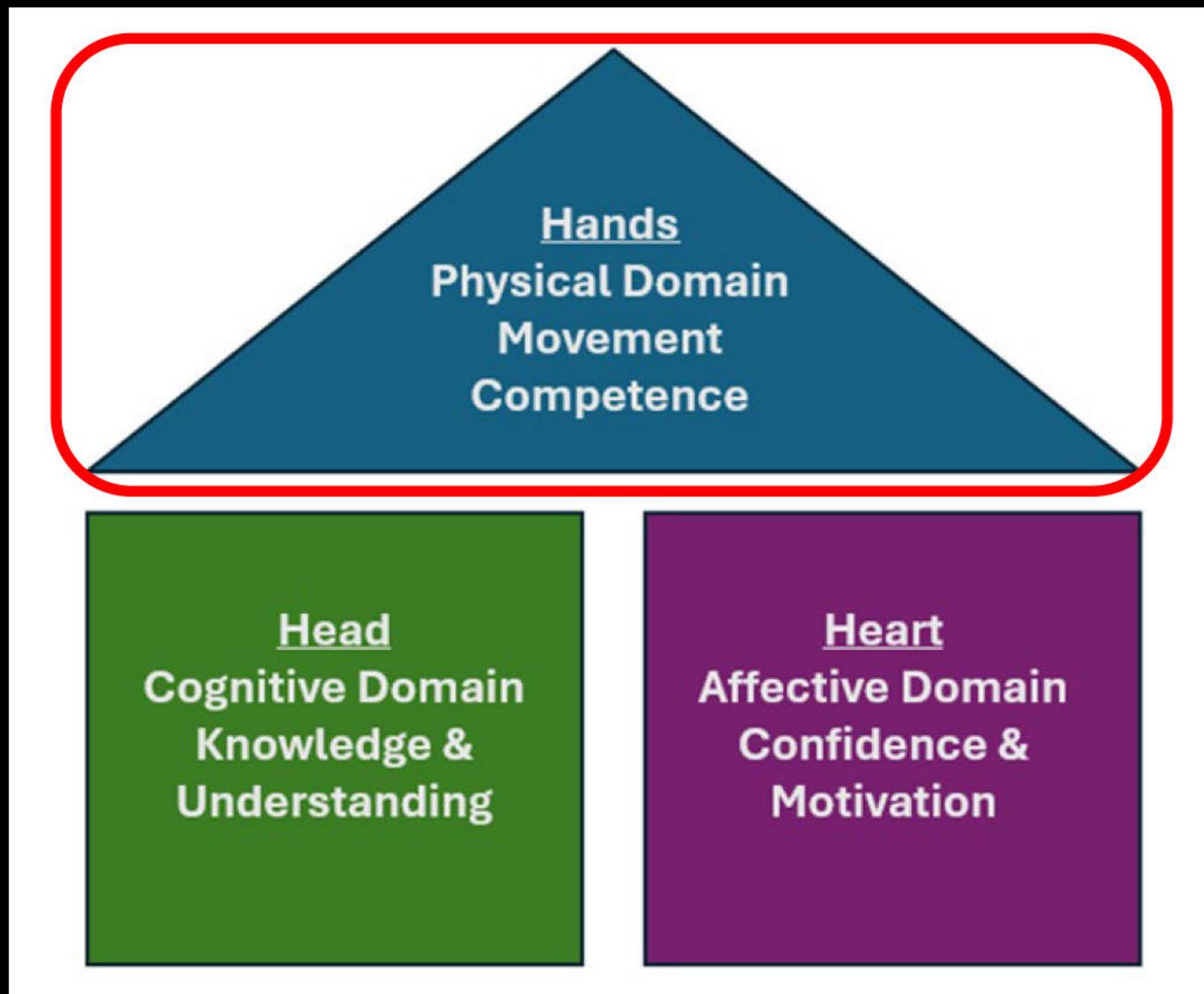
# ASSESSMENT IN PRIMARY PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Often depends on subjective observation, which tends to overlook children performing at the lower end of the ability spectrum (Bryant *et al.*, 2020)
- Marginalised or treated superficially (Penney, 2020)
- An underdeveloped area in primary teacher training (Randall, 2019)
- A balanced and intentional approach to assessment is needed (Thompson & Penney, 2018)



# HEAD, HEART, HANDS ASSESSMENT

(Frapwell, 2015)



# ATHLETE TRACKER

- Involves six motor competence assessments that pupils undertake at regular intervals (once or twice per year)
- Expert design in collaboration with teachers
- Provides a comprehensive overview of each child's movement competence
- Individual, class and pupil group tracking



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PRACTICE MATTERS

## ASSESSMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF MOTOR COMPETENCE IN PRIMARY PE THE ATHLETE TRACKER

**Keiran Montagu and Jordan Wintle**

### INTRODUCTION

Physical education (PE) holds a unique position within the primary curriculum as it is the only subject explicitly grounded in the physical domain (Pickup & Randall, 2022). It provides a critical foundation for the development of physical literacy, encompassing motivation, confidence, physical competence, knowledge and understanding necessary for lifelong engagement in physical activity (Durden-Myers *et al.*, 2018). Early experiences in movement are central to this process, with motor competence widely recognised as a key precursor to physical activity participation (Logan *et al.*, 2018). Research has consistently shown that children who develop fundamental movement skills (FMS) in their early years are more likely to be active, confident and willing to engage in physical pursuits as they grow older (Barnett *et al.*, 2018).

Despite more than a decade of targeted investment through the Primary PE and Sport Premium in England, trends in children's motor competence and physical activity levels remain stagnant or in decline (Ofsted, 2022; Sport England, 2024). A major limitation in evaluating the impact of this investment lies in the reliance on self-reported data and teacher perceptions, with little objective evidence available to determine what children can do within the physical domain (Lindsey *et al.*, 2020).



# ATHLETE TRACKER - ASSESSMENTS

| Assessment               | What is assessed?        | Description  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 2-minute 10m shuttle run | Cardiovascular endurance | The 2-minute 10-metre shuttle run is a measure of endurance. It is a continuous shuttle run for 2 minutes between 2 spots placed 10 metres apart in a straight line. We record the total number of shuttles completed within the time                    |
| Countermovement jump     |                          | Countermovement (power-body explosive movement) achieved.  |
| 10m sprint               |                          | Number of timing gates and speed gates. 10 metre sprint is also a practical  |
| 5 x 5m shuttle           |                          | on the ability to  |
| Throw and catch          |                          | mini orange tennis ball on how many times they can throw and catch the ball against a wall in a minute.  |
| Speed dribble            | Foot-eye coordination    | A 10m straight line is set out with cones placed every 2 metres up to 10 metres (5 cones in total). The pupils dribble in and out of the cones, there and back, until they pass through the timing gate on the start line, where their time is measured. |



## Athlete Tracker

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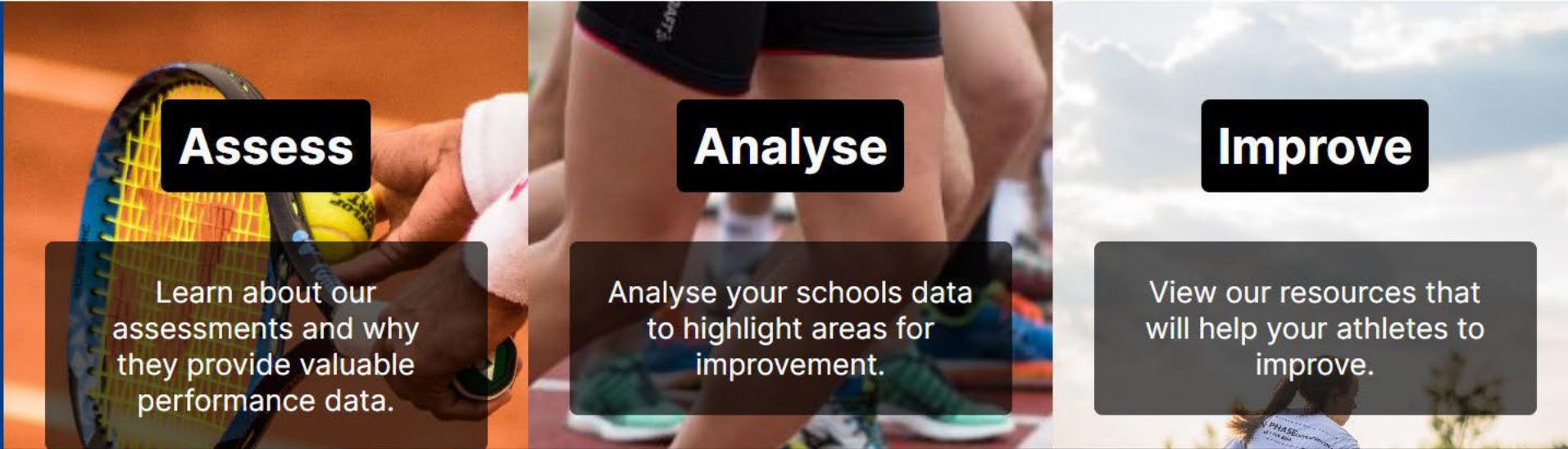
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# IMPACT

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# TRACKING

# DEVELOPMENT

KEY STAGE 2

HAND-EYE CO-ORDINATION:

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## DIAMOND BOUNCING DRILL

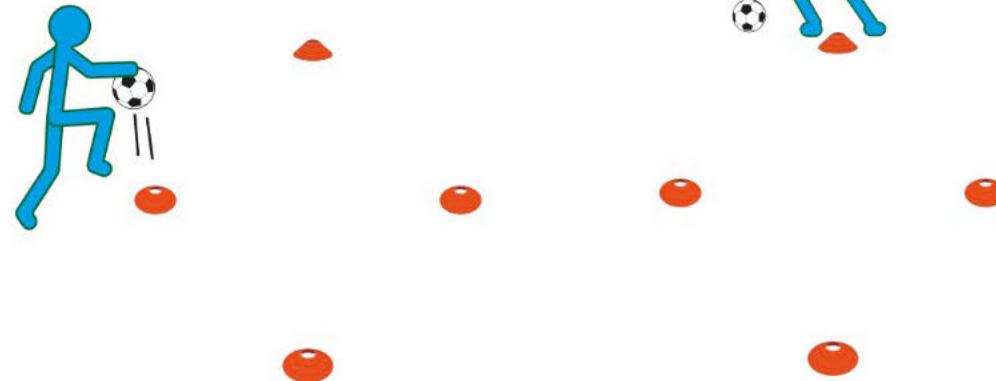
Cones/shoes set up in a diamond formation with each side a metre long.

2. Can you go around the outside of the diamond whilst bouncing the ball using both hands?

3. Can you bounce the ball around in the opposite direction?

4. Can you change direction mid-way through bouncing?

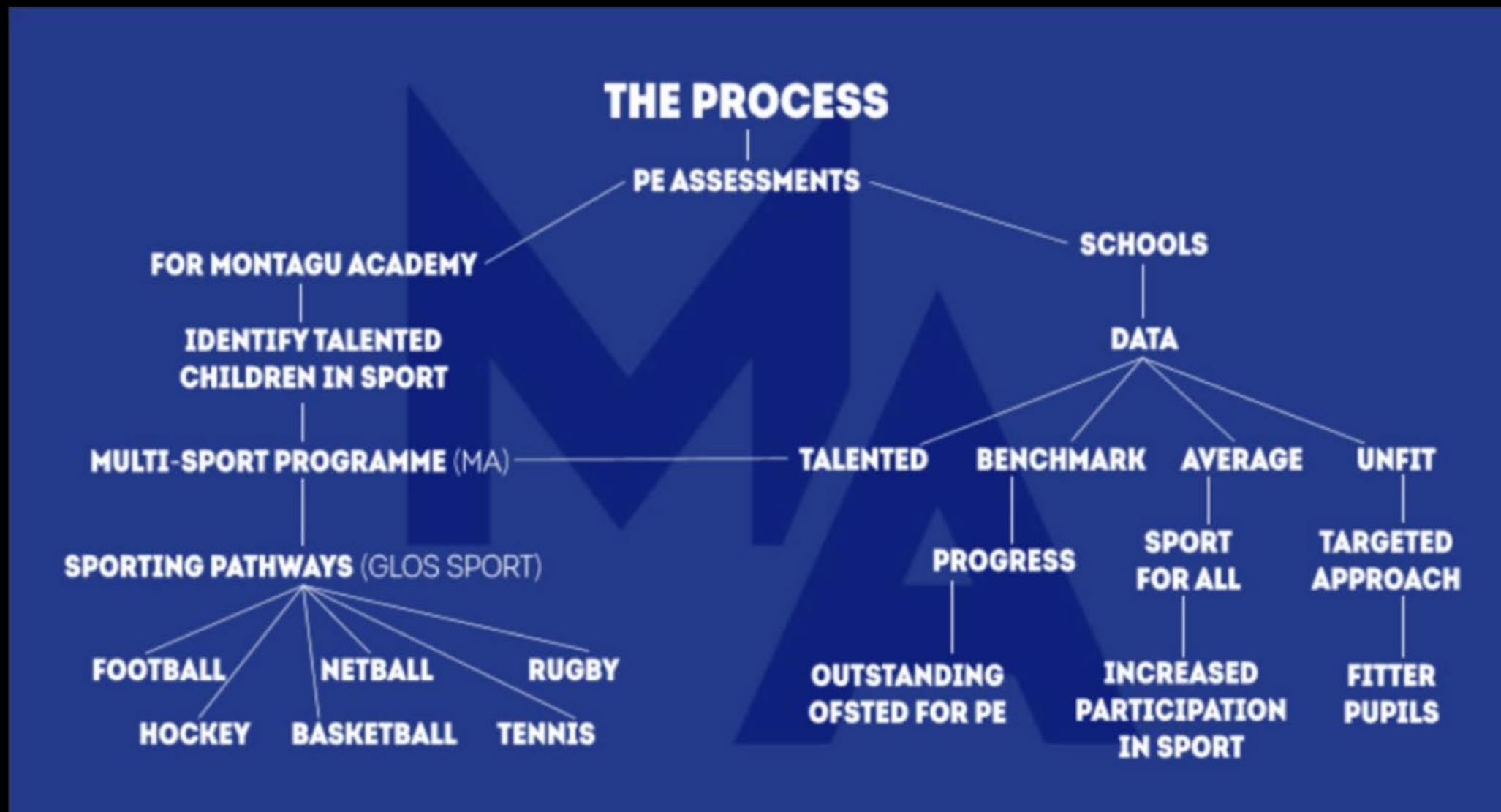
5. How many circuits/laps can you do with the ball in a minute? Can you beat your score?



Remember your score - can you beat it next time?

\*Don't worry if you can't time it! Just practise and do as many laps/circuits as possible.

# PATHWAYS



# SPORT PREMIUM GUIDANCE



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## **Examples of how schools have used the PE and sport premium to help achieve improvements**

- Developed a monitoring programme to assist with PE assessment, identifying pupils' strengths and areas for development, which leads to more focused support.
- Make use of online digital portals to measure PE attainment

# QUESTIONS & FEEDBACK

Potential actions: -

- One idea/action to adopt immediately
- One aspect they want to explore further
- Any barriers to implementation in your context?

# CONTACTS

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