

Crosfields School

'We are absolutely delighted to have been able to reopen our facilities for community use and it has been a privilege to see so many using our sports centre'

(James Sadler, Sports Centre Enterprise Manager, Crosfields School)



We spoke to James Sadler, Sports Centre Enterprise Manager at Crosfields School, who said the following about reopening Crosfields School for Community sport use:

What led to you make the decision to reopen your school to bookings and what demand have you seen so far?

We are the home to many local sports clubs, and we wanted to reopen our facility to them as soon as we could as we knew how eager our clubs were to come back and participate again. The lockdown showed just how important sport and exercise is to our wellbeing and we wanted to reopen so we could provide our facilities to aid wellbeing in a safe and clean environment.

What have you seen from community clubs in terms of their management of sessions?

All club have been great and followed the social distancing rules we as a sports centre have put in place. The Badminton England guidance has been followed and we also display the posters available from the Badminton England website.

Have you put in place any additional precautions / terms to allow the return of community bookings?

We have written a comprehensive Covid-19 Risk Assessment that outlines all the rules and changes we enforce at the school. This Risk Assessment includes all the precautions we have enforced such as when you should/should not attend the facility, one-way systems, hand gel stations, closing changing rooms, limiting spectators, increased cleaning, facemasks upon arrival, track and trace, social distancing signage and rules of play and roadmap signage.

Do you have any advice that you would give to other schools considering reopening their sports hall?

Facility managers will know what is and is not achievable regarding their respective sites. We have found utilising fire exits to create one-way systems to be very effective and I would recommend that this is something that should be considered if safe to do so. Consider all the risks and put measures in place to reduce that risk as far as reasonably practical.



There is a strong link between Crosfields School and the junior badminton club hiring the facility; providing students at the school with a local opportunity to take part in badminton outside of the school environment



4 badminton clubs use Crosfields School as their training and playing venue, including Berkshire County Badminton Association for junior county and performance training



The school generates significant income through community bookings with a sports hall, swimming pool, dance studio and artificial turf pitch all available for hire