School-based health is a priority for the current UK Government. Since 2011 >£8.8million has been spent on eight NIHR funded school-based trials tackling two key public health crises of the modern world; the obesity epidemic and rising inactivity levels among children. Despite being informed by theory and overcoming the limitations of previous research, the majority of these studies showed limited effectiveness and is likely, largely due to the complexities of the school setting, which is not suited to the traditional randomised controlled trial model. The weight of null findings might lead to an impending threat of double inertia: that school-based prevention research may be seen as less fundable and that academics may continue to fail (defined as not producing high quality research outputs leading to societal impact) by not updating their approach. Doing “more of the same” will not lead to new knowledge that is relevant to stakeholders. An inquiry into the level of knowledge implementation (i.e. what has been used, by whom and for what purpose) of these trial results would identify implementation gaps and could guide funders, researchers and decision makers into approaches at all stages of the research lifecycle to reduce “research waste” in school-based health research.

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