

Opening School Facilities: Phase 2

Frequently Asked Questions

If you have any questions which aren't covered below, please email us at Info-cyp@sportengland.org.

Q. Are FE colleges and sixth forms eligible for funding?

A. No. The remit for this funding is purely school – both primary and secondary.

Q. Are independent schools eligible for funding?

A: As a general rule independent schools are not eligible to receive funding as the DfE have specified that this funding is for state schools. That said, if there is an independent school which has a facility e.g. a school pool which is extensively used by local schools for school swimming (and without some funding may not be able to open to provide this facility) then we can consider this but only on a case by case basis.

Q. How much of the funding can we allocate for capacity costs?

A. Whilst we have not set an exact amount you can apply for, we will require you to specify the amount of capacity funding you require with the rationale for the amount in your application form. We want to ensure that as much funding as possible goes directly to schools so please bear this in mind in your planning.

Q. How has the funding been allocated?

A. We have used a funding formula to weight the awards based on secondary schools in each AP area. While this fund is open to primary schools, secondary schools hold most facilities which can be made available for community use. Phase 1 AP's have also received an additional £50k as a reflection of their prior consultation and research, preparation and progress with schools and subsequent readiness to invest from Phase 1.

Q. What is the deadline for spending this funding?

A. All funding must be spent or committed by 31 August 2021.

Q. Can we get a list of schools with swimming pools in our area?

A. Yes. Please email info-cyp@sportengland.org for this information.

Q. How should this money be distributed to schools?

A. What is possible and practicable will vary in each AP so we are flexible on how this should be achieved. The funding objectives should be central to your planning.

Q. Can we work with schools which already open up their facilities?

A. Yes, if funding can help a school to further extend their existing community use.

Q: Is the focus on reactivating extra-curricular provision or opening school facilities?

A: It can be used to support both.

Q: Can the funding be used to support previously open facilities or opening facilities for the first time?

A: Yes, it can be used to support both.

Q. Should the funding be predominantly awarded to primary or secondary schools?

A. The balance of funding is your decision but must focus on providing physical activity opportunities outside of the normal school day (evenings, weekends and holidays). We anticipate that the majority of funding will be to secondary schools. However, if your insight shows that a primary school is the priority then the school must use their own budgets if they have any for extracurricular activities e.g. PE and Sport Premium.

Q. Does the provision have to be both extra-curricular and community sessions.

It doesn't have to be both but it does need to predominantly benefit the children and young people in the first instance (as its DfE money) followed by the wider community. Schools need to use their own budgets if they have any for the likes of extracurricular (this is more relevant for primary schools who have the PE and Sport Premium).

Q. Can this funding be used to enhance the Holiday Activities & Food initiative offer or is this double funding. If a primary just wanted to open up for the holidays would that be eligible?

If a school was accessing this funding it would be double funding and not eligible. If for example, a primary school wasn't accessing the funding and wanted to just make a holiday offer in the summer, they could be funded with this investment but just for the activity element.

Q. Can capacity funding be used to free up our existing staff members?

A. Yes. Where key staff will be crucial to delivery, some capacity funding can be allocated to provide cover for their normal duties. SGO's should also be considered in this case as they already have a good relationship with schools.

Q. When will the full monitoring requirements be announced?

A. Once awards are confirmed and the award letters have been issued. There will be a smartsheet to be completed by AP's for each school and reports will be required by the end of May 2021 and a final report in August 2021.

Q. Should the budget in your application form include capacity?

A. Yes, please calculate capacity funding separately and include it in the budget.

Q: Can we work with consultants?

A: Yes. Priority should be given to your existing network of staff and partners as it is important that existing relationships with schools exist. Another factor to consider is that Consultants can be costly so there may be a question of value for money and sustainability. Where there are gaps in expertise, consultants can be used to fill them.

Q: Can the money be used to pay for transport to support children's transportation from rural areas?

A: No. Paying of transportation costs is not in the scope of this funding as payment of transportation costs would not directly open up school facilities.

Q: Can the money be used to cover breakfast and lunchtime clubs?

A: No as it does not relate to opening up school facilities outside the school day. This is for both mainstream and non-mainstream provision.

Q: Can the funding be used to re-open those facilities that face additional barriers due to COVID-19 and need support to reopen?

A: Yes, we expect funding to be used to help schools open up facilities in a COVID-19 secure manner. For example, to help schools to meet COVID-19 measures such as purchasing additional signage, touch free entry points, perspex screens and additional cleaning equipment.

Q: Can the funding be used to take pupils offsite to use the facilities at a nearby facility such as a leisure centre?

A: No, this funding is for opening facilities on school sites.

Q: Can the funding be used to re-open swimming pools on school sites?

A: Yes, we expect that funding will be used to help support schools to re-open their swimming pools.

Q: Can the funding be used for large scale capital building works?

A: No, capital building works are not eligible.

Q: Can the funding be used to cover loss of revenue because of facilities being closed during the period of restrictions?

A: No, these costs are not eligible Items of expenditure.

Q: How do I find the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) data for my area?

A: There a number of useful resources available on the Internet. For example, You can search IMD by postcode using this link:

http://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/iod_index.html

This link may also be useful. It provides information about number of children on school role, FSM numbers etc. by school.

<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/>