

Opening School Facilities: Phase 2

Frequently Asked Questions

If you have any questions which aren't covered below, please email Nicole Emmanuel, Project Manager (Youth Sport) at Nicole.emmanuel@wesport.org.uk.

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. What is the deadline for spending this funding?

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

Q. How will money be distributed to schools?

A. Wesport have created an Expression of Interest form. Schools can apply for funding and support through this form only. Wesport may contact schools in which we believe support or investment could support the local community and their pupils.

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, however initially Wesport's main focus is to support after school and weekend provision, to help young people reconnect and recover. We have identified another 2 priorities which we will be considering applications for also.

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. From our local insight we are prioritising after school and weekend provision for Secondary and Special Schools. However, if Primary Schools apply for after school provision, then the school must evidence and explain why other funding e.g. PE and Sport Premium, isn't being utilised. We don't want to double fund DfE investment.

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

A. It doesn't have to be both but it does need to predominantly benefit 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?

A. 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 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. This is one of our 3 priority areas identified for this phase of the project.

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/>

Where possible, please use data and evidence from the links above in your expression of interest application, as to why support and investment is needed!

This is a Sport England programme funded by the DfE. We hope that investment for schools will support young people recover, reconnect through activity, play, movement and sport. Supporting those most affected and who live with inequalities

is a focus of our work at Wesport, and we will prioritise supporting those young people. Especially provision for those with FSM, SEND or who live with other challenges which prevent them being as active as they would like.

Q: Is there a deadline to apply for funding?

A: Yes, we have initially set a deadline of the 28th May 2021 for schools looking for investment and support with After school and weekend provision. Schools focusing on the other 2 priority areas can submit deadlines after this date. We have done this as we appreciate consultation, and identifying what support and the rationale make take longer for these other priorities.

Q: I am required to complete any reporting?

A: Yes, although we are awaiting to see what is required from Sport England. Those EOI that are approved, we will the notify schools of what they are required to do.

Q: Can anyone else other than schools apply for funding?

A: No, only schools will be able to apply for funding. Multi Academy Trust's, coaches, SSP's, clubs etc. may want to support schools with their applications, however only schools can apply and then receive funding. Schools can then utilise funding to bring in support to deliver after school provision, manage facilities etc.

Q. What can and can't investment be used for?

A: Investment can be used for the following:

- Help schools with their own pool on site to safely open them – this can include purchasing water testing kits.
- Help schools to meet COVID-19 measures by purchasing additional signage, touch free entry points, perspex screens and additional cleaning equipment.
- Purchase additional sports, activity, and storage equipment.
- To improve the accessibility of school sports facilities, especially for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. This could include buying adaptive sports equipment.
- Where relevant provide funding for additional short-term staffing challenges which prevent schools from opening facilities or delivering sessions.

Investment cannot be used for:

- Capital based projects (resurfacing, new playground, improvements to sports facilities)
- Put on after school provision that was already going to commence, and is supporting those solely in teams or the most active young people in school. (Needs to focus on supporting less 'sporty' and those who would really value this opportunity)
- Covering the cost of TA's, teachers. Capacity should only cover the costs of someone managing facilities in the evenings or weekend. **we are awaiting clarification on this point to see if capacity costs can cover Teachers/ TA's after school provision delivery. Especially in the case for Special Schools where children need additional support that can't be provided by external deliverers.*
- Marketing, website development or maintenance

Q. Why have we identified 3 priorities and a focus on supporting young people on FSM, with SEND and inactivity.

A: Evidence from phase 1 of Opening School Facilities nationally, and Active Lives CYP survey data work suggested that we needed to support young people in Secondary school to be active and reconnect. Insight also suggests that those young people who live in areas of high deprivation or on FSM are less likely to be active. This is why we believe we need to focus on supporting those young people, especially as we recover from the pandemic. We also know the importance of swimming pools, and by supporting schools to help open we believe this will not only hugely benefit their own pupils, but other schools and the local community. A need we need to support to help people across the West of England be active.

Q. Our school doesn't have a high % of pupils on FSM, SEND and we don't hit one of the 3 priorities, can we still apply?

A: Yes, however we will be prioritising applications that meets 1 of the priorities. As well as schools who have the greatest need to support those young people who may have been most affected by the pandemic.