

Opening School Facilities: Phase 2

Frequently Asked Questions

If you have questions which are not covered by the answers below, please email Neville Duncan, School Games Coordinator, at neville.duncan@countydurhamsport.com

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

A. No. The remit for this funding is purely for schools - primary, secondary, and special schools.

Q. Are independent schools eligible for funding?

A: As a 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 31st August 2021.

Q. How will money be distributed to schools?

A. County Durham Sport have created an Expression of Interest Form whereby schools can apply for funding and support. County Durham Sport may additionally contact schools where we believe support or investment would benefit their pupils and the local community.

Q. Can we work with schools which have already opened 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. Initially, though, County Durham Sport's focus is to support after-school provision, thereby helping young people reconnect and recover. We have also identified another 2 priorities for which we will be considering applications.

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

A. We are prioritising after-school provision for secondary and special schools as there is an identified need to support teenagers.

Applications are welcomed from primary schools for after-school activity funding. However, we strongly encourage that they only apply for funding where there is a noticeably clear focus on inactive pupils, those on FSM, and young people with SEND. We do not want to double fund after-school provision already committed to as part of their other funding, such as PE and Sport Premium. Primaries can however apply for funding for sessions taking place during evenings and weekends for any children.

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

A. It does not have to be both, but it does need to predominantly benefit the children and young people in the first instance (as it is 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 for the holidays would that be eligible?

If a school was already accessing HAF funding, it would be double funding and not eligible. If for example though, a primary school wasn't accessing the HAF 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. We are working with Durham County Council to identify schools where holiday activity can be delivered.

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 it would not directly open school facilities.

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

A: No as it does not relate to opening 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 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 1 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 data & information for my school?

A: There are several useful resources available on the Internet. For example, you can search IMD (Index of Multiple Deprivation) by postcode using this link:

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

The following link may also be useful. It supplies information about number of children on the school roll, 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 and reconnect through activity, play, movement, and sport. Supporting those most affected and who face inequalities is a focus of our work at County Durham Sport, and we will prioritise supporting those young people on FSM, pupil premium, 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 **Friday 21st May 2021** for schools looking for investment and support with after-school provision. Schools focusing on the other 2 priority areas can submit after this date. We have done this as we appreciate that consultation, identifying what support is needed, and determining rationale may take longer for these other priority areas. However, all funding must be approved and committed by **31st August 2021**.

Q: Am I required to complete any reporting?

A: Yes, although we are awaiting to see what is required from Sport England. For those EOI that are approved, we will notify schools of what they must do. The reporting due will focus on what has been delivered and to whom.

Q: Can I have more than one application per School?

A: No, however you can focus on more than 1 of the priority areas. On the EOI form you can tick more than 1 priority.

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. The impact of the pandemic may require additional sports, activity, and storage equipment to be purchased by schools. Examples of where this may be the case could be the impact of not sharing equipment, requiring more equipment due to having smaller groups of participants, having to use outdoor space resulting in the need for portable / small moveable pieces of equipment, the need to separately store equipment for community groups and the introduction of new activities. All items within this category are eligible items of expenditure.
- To improve the accessibility of school sports facilities, especially for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. This could include buying adaptive sports equipment.
- Support Schools in opening facilities to the community. This could include purchasing booking systems, short term staffing, additional equipment etc. Challenges which prevent schools from opening facilities or delivering sessions without increasing short term staffing, are allowed to cover staff costs until the 31st August 2021.

Investment cannot be used for:

- Capital based projects (resurfacing, new playground, improvements to sports facilities). Funding should not be used for any ongoing repairs or changes which should be part of the schools' continual facility improvement e.g., to meet Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) requirements. Funding to widen doors, repair pathways, fix roofs etc are ineligible.
- To put on after-school provision that was already going to begin and is supporting those solely in teams or the most active young people in school. (There needs to be a focus on supporting the less 'sporty' and those who would really benefit from this opportunity)
- Covering the cost of TA's/PE staff during the school day. Funding should only cover the costs for after-school provision delivery, or someone managing facilities in the evenings or weekend.
- Marketing, website development or maintenance
- Items which only benefit an individual e.g., membership fees, bursaries or kit and equipment that is not shared.
- Any expenditure by schools after 31 August 2021 or costs prior to the Award Letter date
- Transport costs
- Funding for any items linked to delivery that is not ready to begin by the 2nd week of September 2021 at the latest.
- Activities delivered off school premises.
- Paying teachers or teaching assistants
- Costs that could be covered by the Primary PE and Sport Premium.
- Any activity delivered during curriculum time or breakfast clubs.
- Funding to cover the loss of revenue.
- Funding independent schools (if there is a case for an independent school where it provides a substantial swimming offer to the local community, local schools then please contact us directly to discuss this further).
- Funding for wrap around care.
- Funding for FE colleges and standalone 6th Form Colleges.
- Funding to an organisation that runs the community side of a dual use school.
- Funding to a letting agency/management company.

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

A: Evidence from phase 1 of Opening School Facilities, and Active Lives CYP (Children and Young People) survey data work, suggested that we especially needed to support young people in secondary and special schools 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. Therefore, we believe we need to focus on supporting those young people, especially as they recover from the pandemic. We also understand 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.

Q. Our school does not have a high % of pupils on FSM or receiving pupil premium, 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 will have been most affected by the pandemic.