

Opening School Facilities Phase 3

School FAQ's

Opening school facilities outside of the normal school day to school and community users, to create sustainable change in increased physical activity levels.



Department
for Education

FAQ's

General funding

What is the deadline for spending this funding?	Funding for Year 1 must be spent or committed by 31 March 2023.
Is funding available for future years?	The programme is for 3 years and schools engaging in Year 1 will receive funding each year, for 3 years subject to progression and success of the project.
Does the amount of funding remain the same for each of the 3 years?	No. Schools will be required to submit an Information and Delivery Plan in their first year with an agreed budget. This will be reviewed and updated for Years 2 & 3 and further funding will only be approved pending the progression and success of the project.
Can the funding be continuation funding of other projects that may end during the 3 years, e.g., HAF projects that may not be funded beyond next year?	The fund must go towards new or additional activities
Is the focus on after school provision or opening school facilities?	Aside from swimming, the aim of the programme is to open school facilities outside of the normal school hours – before school, after school, at evenings, weekends and during the school holiday. The activities must be new or in addition to what is currently on offer in the schools
Can schools claim some capacity in their funding?	Yes
Are independent schools eligible for funding?	Independent schools are not eligible to receive funding as the DfE have specified that this funding is for state schools. However, 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) funding could go towards hiring their pool for 'top up' swimming for secondary students.
Can the funding be used for large scale capital building works?	No, capital building works are not eligible, including resurfacing, new playgrounds or improvements to sports facilities.
How does a school know what Idaci school band they are in?	If you go to this link https://imd-by-postcode.opendatacommunities.org/imd/2019 and pop your school's postcode in, it will put it on an excel sheet. Scroll to the right and the IDACI band is there for you

Specific funding

Can new lines in a sports hall be funded?	Yes as long as the school classifies this spend as revenue
Can funding be used to support youth voice, volunteering and accreditation?	Yes
Can we charge for the activities?	Yes, you can charge for community hire and pay and play etc. If the proposed charge is for after school provision, you will need to demonstrate that this is not a barrier to the target audience (FSM, SEND, inactive young people) participating and that the income is to enhance and extend the provision (sustainability).
Purchase machinery for grass maintenance?	As long as the school does not determine this as capital spend according to their guidelines
Can we resurface courts i.e., netball, rounders? Can we remark courts?	No resurfacing but yes to court markings
Can OSF fund gardening activity?	No
Can portable floodlights be funded to allow longer activity time in playgrounds?	Yes
Can CPD be funded if it isn't a recognised / accredited course - we have 3 schools who want the local gymnastics club to deliver some training - gym club want to be paid.	Yes

Transport

Can schools claim extra transport costs?	Only for secondary school swimming top up sessions
Can the funding be used to take pupils offsite to use the facilities at a nearby facility such as a leisure centre?	With the exception of swimming, no, this funding is for opening facilities on school sites.
Can the money be used to pay for transport to support children's transportation from rural areas?	No. Paying of transportation costs is not in the scope of this funding as payment of transportation costs would not directly open school facilities. Transport to swimming for 'top up swimming' if there are no other options (no other sources of funding) is permitted.

Swimming

How can the funding be used to support swimming pools?	Anything to get the pool open for the activity.
Can schools cover utility costs in funding?	Only for swimming yes – anything to get the pool running for that activity.
Cover bills for pools especially ones struggling with increasing costs and to what amount/level is appropriate (or this AP's decision?) -	Only for the time that the new or additional activity that is happening in the swimming pool.
Can the funding be used to re-open swimming pools on school sites?	Yes, we expect that funding will be used to help support schools to re-open their swimming pools and this a priority area.
Funding pay for a school to put a dome over an outdoor swimming pool? or is this capital spend? It would enable a school to open the pool all year round rather than just for 4 months.	No - this would be classed as capital as that is permanent.

Food

Can we use the funding for food to put on a warm meal for children and young people after their activity?	No.
Can OSF fund a food element of a fit and fed type project?	The OSF money should fund the PA side of a project and Fit & Fed/HAF monies to fund the food aspect.

Facilities

Are there any recommended facility management systems?	We can recommend specific facility management systems.
Can funding be used to pay for an external company to take on the management of a school sports hall.	No, funding cannot pay for an external company.

Staff

Can funding be used to pay for members of school staff to deliver sessions outside of their contracted hours (e.g. overtime)? And if yes, how can this be evidenced?	TA's can be funded outside of their contracted hours but teachers cannot be funded. A way to evidence is to have staff complete an overtime sheet with the number of hours and the rate of pay he had agreed.
Can the funds be used to pay for non-salaried school staff e.g. teaching assistants to provide 1:1 support for pupils that require it to attend or to deliver the activity?	SEND students – yes the money can pay for 1:1 support from a TA

<p>Could the school pay someone (maybe a teacher, maybe not) to manage the opening and closing of the building?</p>	<p>The fund can pay for a person (not a teacher) to open and close the facility if this is outside of their contracted hours and will allow the facility to be open for this period of time. This would be short term funding only (up to 3 months) to allow the funding to get up and running .</p>
<p>Can the money be used to pay for sports coaches, teachers and teaching assistants to deliver activities?</p>	<p>You can use this money to pay sports coaches and sports leaders. You cannot use the money to pay teachers. Teaching assistants can be paid provided they are running a session when they are not being paid to work. Ideally the schools will connect with local providers and or National Governing Bodies to ensure the sessions are sustainable and there are pathways in place, should the young people want to continue to develop and remain active in the activity/sport.</p>