**Opening Schools Facilities Fund FAQs – Short List**

**Q. Who can apply for the fund?**

A. Any primary or secondary school who wishes to open their facilities to extend their physical activity offer outside of school hours.

Please note that independent schools are not eligible for the fund as the Department for Education has stated the funding is purely for state schools.

Sixth forms and FE colleges are also not eligible.

**Q. What can I spend the funding on?**

A. The funding can be used to reactivate extra-curricular provision outside of the school day or open up school facilities outside of that offering (so before school clubs, after school clubs, evenings, weekends and holidays). It cannot be used for breakfast club or lunchtime activities as these fall within the school day.

It may be used to purchase equipment to aid the re-start of activities or to help schools open up facilities in a COVID-19 secure manner. For example:

* To help schools with their own pool on site to safely open them – this can include purchasing water testing kits and plant servicing following guidance from Swim England.
* To help schools to meet COVID-19 measures by purchasing additional signage, touch free entry points, Perspex screens and additional cleaning equipment.
* To 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.

It cannot be used for capital expenditure.

**Q. Can I use the funding to help re-open swimming pools?**

A. Yes – the funding can be used to help support schools to re-open swimming facilities.

**Q. Can the funding be used to support previously open facilities?**

A. Yes – it can be used to support schools with previously open facilities or schools who wish to open their facilities for the first time.

**Q. Can the funding be used to subsidise the cost of transport in 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. Who should the funding support?**

The funding is primarily to support Free School Meals and SEND pupils who might not otherwise have access to physical activity provision. Particularly those that are: less active, are looking to improve their mental health, and/or are part of a healthy weight programme.

**Q. How much can I apply for?**

A. As part of our offer, up to £10,000 can be applied for per school.

**Q. Is there a time limit by when the funding must be spent?**

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

**Q. Can I use it to help with the Holiday Activity and Food programme or Summer Schools?**

A. If a school is accessing this funding, it would be double funding and not eligible.

If for example, a 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 **only** for the activity element.

**Q. How do I apply for the fund?**

A. The application form is online and can be found [here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc2MdwO3WS35s0wwqGxFrByHbQoSXlLdvbQucAMsBmM-Lv77A/viewform). Once you have completed and submitted the online form, a virtual meeting will be set up to discuss your plans in more detail with a member of the Together Active team in preparation for your application to be placed in front of a decision panel.

**Q. What will the assessment criteria be?**

A. Please note that funds will be allocated via the criteria outlined here:

1. Greater than 15% of children accessing free school meals
2. Greater than 7% of children with SEND
3. SEND schools
4. Schools addressing
	1. Inactivity
	2. Poor mental health
	3. Healthy weight
5. Feeder schools with higher than 35% of children with excess weight at year 6
6. Facilities suitable for community use
7. Readiness and willingness of their senior management to engage
8. Happy to comply with open data request
9. Enthusiasm to enable community access

**Q. When will I hear if my school has been successful?**

A. Following the virtual meeting with a member of the Together Active team and panel discussions you will receive confirmation of whether your fund has been successful before the end of May. At that point, we will be in contact to arrange how the funds will be transferred to you.

**Q. Who should I contact with any queries?**

A. If you have not heard whether your application has been successful or you have any queries regarding your application, please contact Lijana Kaziow lijanakaziow@togetheractive.org

**Q. Will I have to complete a report on how the funding was spent and its impact?**

A. As the funder, we will be required to complete reports for Sport England and the Department for Education on the fund’s overall impact. For that purpose, we may require information from you in order to review how the funding has helped to support your plans.

**Opening School Facilities Phase 2, Frequently Asked Questions (extended list)**

If you have any questions which aren't covered below, please email Lijana Kaziow, OSF Programme Manager at lijanakaziow@togetheractive.org

Q. **How soon are we expected to open up our facilities?**

A. As soon as a possible due to the restricted timeframe of this phase.

Q. **What Is the deadline for spending this funding?**

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

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

A. As the remit for this funding is for schools such as primary, secondary and special Schools, this excludes FE colleges and sixth forms.

Q. **Are independent schools eligible for funding?**

A: The DfE have specified that this funding is for state schools, so independent schools are not eligible to receive this funding. The singular exception being if the facilities of the independent school are used by local schools for school swimming on a regular basis and would be unable to open to provide this without the funding. However, this will only be considered on a case by case basis.

Q. **How will money be distributed to schools?**

A. Together Active have made an expression of interest form for schools to complete. Schools can apply for funding and support through this form only. Together Active 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. But this will not be a priority.

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

A: It can be used to support both, however initially Together Active’s main focus is to support after school provision, to help young people reconnect and recover. We are interested in working with schools that are willing to have a longer term commitment to opening up access to the wider community.

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. We are prioritising after school provision for Secondary and special schools as there is a need to support teenagers. However, if primary school applies for after school activity, then the school must evidence and explain why other funding e.g. PE and Sport Premium, isn’t being utilised. We will not double fund DfE investment.

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

It doesn’t have to be both but is 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 and Food initiative and Summer Schools 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. We are working with Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent County Councils and local authorities to identify schools where Holiday activity can be delivered.

Q. **Can we work with consultants?**

A. Together Active will be able to provide support to schools, who need additional advice and guidance; COVID measures, or identifying what local provision is needed.

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 COVID19 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: **Is there a deadline to apply for funding?**

A: Yes, we have initially set a deadline of the 7th May 2021 for schools looking for investment and support with after school provision.

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 I have more than one application per School?**

A: No, each school is restricted to just one application.

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.
* Support Schools to open up to the community, this could include purchasing booking systems, short term staffing, marketing material, additional equipment.

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 those cost of TA’s, PE staff during the school day. Capacity should only cover the costs for after school provision delivery, or someone managing facilities in the evenings or weekend.