



## Opening School Facilities Funding

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **What is the application process for this funding?**

Consider what your school needs to open its facilities safely to your pupils before school, in the evenings, at weekends and during the holidays. Remember to cater these activities towards the least active, SEND pupils and those in receipt of Free School Meals.

Read through the guidance on our website <https://www.teambedsandluton.co.uk/opening-school-facilities-fund> and complete the application form before 5pm on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

#### **Are independent schools eligible for funding?**

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 Sport England can consider this but only on a case by case basis.

#### **When is the deadline for spending this funding?**

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

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

It can be used to support both.

#### **Can this funding be used to enhance the Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) 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, not food.

#### **Can the money be used to pay for transport to support children's travel 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 up school facilities.

#### **Can the money be used to cover breakfast and lunchtime clubs?**

No, as it does not relate to opening up school facilities outside the school day. This is for both mainstream and non-mainstream provision. Morning activities can be funded to the targeted groups, but not as part of the school's breakfast club.



**Can the funding be used to take pupils offsite to use a nearby facility such as a leisure centre?**

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

**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.

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

No, capital building works are not eligible.

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

No, these costs are not eligible items of expenditure.

**Can Sixth Form/FE establishments apply?**

No, this funding is only available for Primary, Middle, Secondary and Special schools

**What can't the money be spent on?**

As mentioned previously, any large scale capital / building works cannot be funded through this stream. Also,

- Activities or costs which are already covered by other government funding or other Sport England funding
- Activities promoting religious or political beliefs.
- Where there is personal benefit to an individual
- Any private business or profitmaking organisations unless they are a Social Enterprise or Community Interest Company
- Any loss of revenue as a result of facilities being closed due to COVID-19 restrictions
- Marketing and advertising.
- Any costs associated with the maintenance.
- Technical development or updating of existing websites or for the development/creation of new websites.

**Our school is over two sites and the funding could benefit both in different ways. Do I submit one application that includes the plans for both sites, or a separate one for each site?**

One for each site if the needs are different.

**What if we can't spend the money by August 31<sup>st</sup> 2021?**

The money must be spent or committed by August 31<sup>st</sup>. If for some reason your project cannot start until the Autumn term, they must be up and running by October half term.



### When will we know if our application has been successful?

Our panel will meet on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May to assess the applications. We will endeavour to inform schools on their application outcome by the end of that week.

### Do we need to provide any information to you once we have our money?

team BEDS&LUTON will require you to complete a case study about your project and the impact it has had on your targeted pupils. Sport England will require participation data regarding pupils on FSM, SEND and the inactive/those with low activity levels.

### Our school has a wish list of equipment. Can we apply for all of these things through this funding?

No. This funding is to support you with opening your facilities to your pupils. It's important you think the projects through carefully and ensure the specified target groups are benefitting and that the funding is eligible.

### Can we charge our pupils for the activities we will be providing?

Yes, but be mindful of your target groups and ensure your prices are nominal/reasonable so as not to leave pupils unable to attend.