

Appendix 2

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What can the funding be used for?

1. **Supporting schools to open up to the community**, this could include purchasing booking systems, short term staffing, additional equipment, improving security to the facility to ensure it can open.
2. **Help schools with their own pool on site to safely re-open** – this can include purchasing water testing kits and plant servicing following guidance from Swim England. The funding should be used to restart and extend the opportunities for children and young people to participate in swimming activities. Swim England will also be offering advice and guidance on pop up pools in the near future.
3. **Purchase additional sports, activity, and storage equipment (non-fixed items only)**. You may require additional sports, activity and storage equipment to be able to run activities.
4. **To improve the accessibility of school sports facilities**, especially for pupils with **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**. This could include buying adaptive sports equipment.
5. Where relevant provide funding for **additional short-term staffing challenges** which prevent schools from opening facilities or delivering sessions.
6. **Providing CPD opportunities for staff** to either create sustainable business models or provide training to staff to deliver new activities.
7. **Develop existing websites** including purchasing of booking systems and marketing/advertising of new activities.

What is the difference between the pre delivery and post-delivery grant to schools?

The pre delivery grant will pay for anything which is required to ensure the activity can be run e.g. equipment, booking systems, storage facilities, CPD.

The post-delivery grant will pay for anything that ran during the activity e.g. coaches & staff

Both payments will be awarded in arrears once invoices have been uploaded onto Smartsheet.

Are FE colleges and sixth forms eligible for funding?

No. The remit for this funding is purely schools.

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.

What is the deadline for spending this funding?

Funding for Year 1 must be **spent or committed by 31 March 2023**.

Is there a deadline to apply for funding?

5pm on Monday 20th February 2023. **Please submit applications at the earliest opportunity.**

Where development plans are strong, meet one of the key funding criteria and fall within Wesport's priority areas, decisions to award Year 1 funding may be made prior to this date.

How will money be distributed to schools?

Schools will be paid directly by APNT following them uploading a copy of their invoices for pre delivery and post-delivery spend. Once this process has been completed, APNT will process two payment runs per month to schools, following claim submission and payment from DfE. Schools will be paid between 10 and 30 working days from the end of the month that the claim was submitted.

What reporting will schools be required to do?

Schools who receive funding will be required to provide the following information:

- Number and range of activities offered
- Number of sessions
- Length of sessions
- Capacity (number of spaces offered)
- Take up (for both school pupils and community users)
- Hours facilities are open
- How funding has been utilised
- Spending breakdown
- Examples of what works / doesn't work – barriers and challenges

Do schools have to complete the Active Lives Young People Survey?

As part of this funded programme all schools will be asked to collect data on the physical activity attitudes/ behaviors and wellbeing of their pupils. You will be expected to take part in Year 2 and/or Year 3 of the programme. Schools who are able, may like to take part in the survey in Year 1 Term 4 for baseline data to help measure the impact of new delivery. You need to be signed up for the survey before the 31st January Sport England deadline for this to happen. Contact CYP@wesport.org.uk to sign up.

Can we work with schools which already open up their facilities and those who took part in phase 1 or 2?

Yes, if funding can help a school to further extend their existing community use.

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 – after school, at evenings, weekends and during the school holiday.

Is there support for schools to work with community providers?

Wesport can support schools to liaise with local sport providers as well as National Governing Bodies of Sport to ensure that they have access to a high quality and varied offer of sport and physical activity opportunities, which meets the needs of their pupils, including the least active. This could include making links between schools to maximise use of affordable facilities across the local area.

Can we work with consultants?

Yes. Priority should be given to your existing network of staff and local partners, as it is important that existing relationships with schools exist. Another factor to consider is that consultants can be costly, so there may be a question of value for money and sustainability. Where there are gaps in expertise (for example, facility development/improvement consultants, to enable schools to open their facilities to the community), consultants can be used, but only if sustainability measures can be identified.

Can the money be used to pay for sports coaches, teachers and teaching assistants to deliver activities?

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.

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.

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 secondary school swimming, 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 and this a priority area.

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.

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 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).

Can I have more than one application per school?

No **but** you can apply for funding to provide more than one activity (e.g. an after school or community 'programme', rather than just one after school club) and more than one of the target audiences (FSM, SEND and inactive young people – as defined above).

Can anyone else other than schools apply for funding?

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

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.

Further question and queries?

If you have any additional questions or queries about the programme, or if you wish to discuss your project prior to applying, please join our Partners Call on **12th January at 4pm**. Contact CYP@wesport.org.uk for more details.