

We are pleased to share with you the updated guidance for PE and sport premium for primary schools that was sent out this week by the Department of Education.

[PE and sport premium for primary schools - GOV.UK](#)

You will continue to receive PE and sport premium transitional funding based on the number of pupils you have in years 1 to 6. There is absolutely no carry over permitted next year so all funding must be spent and accounted for by July 31 2027.

This will be the last year of this funding, hence the reference to transition, because it will be replaced by a new infrastructure next year.

For the year 2026 to 2027, the amounts payable will be:

- schools with 16 or fewer eligible pupils will receive **£390** per pupil
- schools with 17 or more eligible pupils will receive **£6240** and an additional payment of **£10** per pupil

Please note that although the funding is dictated by the number of pupils Y1-Y6, the funding can be spent on Reception.

LA Schools will receive the funding allocation on **30 October 2026**.

Academies & Free Schools will receive the funding allocation on **9 November 2026**

Non-maintained special schools will receive the funding allocation on **18 December 2026**.

Conditions of grant

You must use the PE and sport premium funding to:

- build capacity and capability in the school, ensuring improvements to the quality of PE, sport and physical activity provision are sustainable and will benefit pupils joining the school in future
- develop or add to the PE, sport and physical activity that the school provides

If a MAT pools the funding between schools, you must use it to benefit the children in every qualifying school in the MAT. **Please remember this is children's money**

You should focus on making improvements in 5 key areas:

1. increase all staff's confidence, knowledge and skills in teaching PE and sporting activities
2. increase all pupils' engagement in regular physical activity and sporting activities
3. raise the profile of PE and sport across the school, to support whole school improvement

4. offer a broader and more equal experience of a range of sports and physical activities to all pupils, and ensure equal access to sport for boys and girls
5. increase participation in competitive sport

You can access the latest [PE and Sport Premium Conditions of Grant](#) here. This sets out the terms of the grant, including how funding can be used, what spending is not permitted and the requirements schools must meet

You must follow the terms set out in the conditions of grant document.

If a school, or MAT does not comply with these terms, the Secretary of State may require the school to repay all or any part of the PE and sport premium funding paid

I have picked out some key headlines from the Conditions of grant document

1. Transport costs for top-up swimming, extra-curricular and competitive activities

You can use the PE and sport premium funding to fund transport costs to:

- top-up swimming sessions
- participate in competitive events, either during or outside the school day
- travel to extra-curricular opportunities to give children access to other sporting activities or specialist sport instruction

2. What you cannot use the PE and sport premium for

- You must not use funding for capital expenditure (see point 3 below)
- You must not use the funding to employ coaches or specialist teachers to cover planning preparation and assessment arrangements, and you must not use the funding to pay staff salaries
- You must not use the funding to teach the minimum requirements of the national curriculum, or the existing PE curriculum for academies. This includes curriculum swimming. This must be funded through core funding.
- You must not use the funding to buy services to deliver or use in following academic years. This includes paying for invoices and subscriptions in advance.
- Staff PE kit

3. Capital expenditure

Capital expenditure does not include spending which only maintains the value of an existing asset.

You can use the premium for maintenance costs associated with existing assets. For example, you can repaint lines on a playground, repair the swimming pool, or maintain fixed play equipment. These facilities are existing assets, and the expenditure is routine maintenance, not capital investment.

If you are unsure if a particular cost is revenue expenditure please contact me for advice.

4. Staffing

You must not use the funding to employ coaches or specialist teachers to cover planning preparation and assessment arrangements.

You must not use the funding to pay staff salaries.

You can use the Primary PE and Sport Premium funding to cover staff for sports fixtures, but only if it strictly provides *additional or expanded* competitive opportunities for pupils.

5. Accountability

Completing the digital expenditure reporting return

You must complete the digital expenditure reporting return at the end of the academic year. Each qualifying school in a MAT must individually complete the return.

The return outlines:

- how you have used your PE and sport premium funding
- the impact your spending has had on achieving the aims and objectives of the funding

You will also need to report on the percentage of pupils in your year 6 cohort who met the national curriculum swimming and water safety requirements, to:

- swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres
- use a range of strokes effectively – for example, front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke
- perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations

Each individual recipient school in a MAT must publish a report on its own website detailing how it has spent its premium. **A MAT cannot publish a single document to cover all schools.**

PE and sport premium transition toolkit

The PE and sport premium transition toolkit may be helpful to plan, break down and record how you use the PE and sport premium funding throughout the year.

You can then use this to complete the digital expenditure reporting return at the end of the academic year.

The toolkit is on the [Association for PE](#) website

There are three resources designed to be used together and support compliance with the PE and sport premium.

Part A – Monitoring Form

- Part A supports schools to reflect on previous spending, identify priorities, plan activity, monitor progress, evaluate impact and evidence outcomes throughout the academic year. It is intended to act as a live working document and support preparation for reporting.

Part B – Spend Tracker

- Part B supports schools to record and monitor PE and sport premium expenditure throughout the year, helping schools track allocations, reconcile spending, maintain accurate financial records and prepare for end-of-year reporting.

Part C – Strategic Guidance and Practical Ideas

- Part C provides reflection questions, practical examples, evidence-informed suggestions and strategic considerations across the five key indicators.

There is likely to be a national webinar organised by DfE in the next few weeks to clarify any changes. As soon as I receive details of this, I will share it across schools.

If you have any questions about the PE & School Sport Premium, or indeed any aspect of PE then please do not hesitate to contact me. We should be your first port of call

Best regards

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