

The Primary PE and sport premium

Frequently Asked Questions

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Created by



all schools to read the Primary PE and sport premium guidance. Schools should ensure that any Primary PE and sport premium spending meets one or more of the key priorities listed. The guidance and template work hand-in-hand.

3.3 When do we need to publish the Primary PE and sport premium report, and do we need to retain last year's report online?

As per conditions of grant, there is a requirement for all schools to publish a report outlining how they have spent their Primary PE and sport premium funding allocation at the end of every academic year (31st July 2024 at the latest). There is no need for you to retain existing reports. We acknowledge that comments have been received about schools duplicating reports and will seek to address this.

1. Template

1.1 Do you have to use the afPE/YST template?

As part of the conditions of grant, schools must publish a report detailing how they have spent their Primary PE and sport premium funding allocation on their school website by 31 July 2024. These reports showcase transparency of premium spend for parents, governors, local authorities, MAT's and the Department. The Department has worked closely with the Association for PE (afPE) and the Youth Sport Trust (YST) on the planning and reporting template, and we would recommend that schools use this document to plan and report their Primary PE and sport premium spend. However, provided the reporting requirements are met, you could use an alternative template for your report.

Details of what should be included in the Primary PE and sport premium report can be found within guidance: PE and sport premium for primary schools - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

2.2 The 5 key priorities are not outlined in the updated afPE/YST template?

The key priorities are referenced in guidance - PE and sport premium for primary schools - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk). The Department expects

2. Spending

2.1 What is capital spending?

Capital spending is defined within the guidance and all schools need to comply with these conditions. Full detail found here: PE and sport premium for primary schools - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

2.2 What is the de-minimis value?

The term is often used in law. The following description may help: De-minimis means that spending is too trivial or minor to merit consideration.

As an example, a tennis racket could be considered a capital expense, however the cost of the racket is minor, it would fall within a schools' "de-minimis" value.

A Local Authority or Multi-Academy Trust will have their own set de-minimis value. If a school is unsure on what this means / what their value is, we would recommend that they get in touch with the person responsible for school finances, who should be able to assist.

2.3 What can I spend my Primary PE & sport premium on?

The guidance is clear what the Primary PE and sport premium can be spent on: PE and sport premium for primary schools - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

The Department is unable to comment on individual scenarios. You should ensure that any planned spending of your Primary PE and sport premium meets the expectations above. Schools will need to assess whether their proposed spending is compliant.

2.4 Does all my spending have to be sustainable?

We do expect for schools to consider sustainability when planning their spend. We however recognise that not all spending will lead to a sustainable outcome. The Primary PE and sport premium funding must be used to meet one or more of the 5 key priorities identified in guidance.

2.5 Can I buy staff PE kit?

Staff PE kit is clearly listed in guidance as an example of what "funding must not be used for". The full list of non-compliant spending can be found here: PE and sport premium for primary schools - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

2.6 What is meant by "external coaches who are engaged in repeated annual initiatives"?

The Department's ambition is for premium spending to be as sustainable for the future as possible. Outsourcing PE and sports to external coaches, replacing the need for primary teaching staff, would not be considered sustainable.

Whilst we acknowledge that schools may want to rely on the expertise of coaches and external organisations, to offer a wider variety of sports and activities for their pupils, we would expect schools to use this as an opportunity to upskill teaching staff. Upskilling staff could then remove the need for regular coach-led incentives, as the teaching staff would have the knowledge or skills to be able to offer or support a specific sport / activity.

2.7 Can I use the Primary PE & sport premium to pay for staff salaries?

Staff salaries should come out of core school budgets.

Further guidance on what the Primary PE and sport premium should not be used to fund can be found here: PE and sport premium for primary schools - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

2.8 Can we use premium funding to pay staff overtime?

Every school has the autonomy to draft their own employment contracts, which may include specific expectations for their staff and teachers, for example; offering extra-curricular sports, supporting pupil competition outside of core school hours etc.

If teaching staff are operating outside of their teaching contract e.g. to offer CPD for staff, to support pupils in competition, to offer additional extra-curricular sport and physical activities etc. Schools can decide whether to use Primary PE and sport premium funding to pay for overtime. Schools will need to assess how overtime payment can lead to additional and sustainable improvements to the PE, sport and physical activity they provide. Specifically ensuring that it meets one or more of the five key areas outlined in guidance.

2.9 Can we use funding to cover staff so that they can attend training days?

Continued Professional Development (CPD) is a good and sustainable use of Primary PE and sport premium funding, as it meets the first key area; “increasing all staff’s confidence, knowledge and skills in teaching PE and sport”. CPD can be offered through various means; external training courses, coach-led training sessions. It is acceptable to engage the expertise of external coaches to provide teachers with the confidence and necessary skills to be able to deliver high-quality PE.

Any funding to cover teaching during the school day should come out of core school budgets.

2.10 How does the DfE monitor the Primary PE and sport premium?

The Department will monitor the premium via:

- Premium reports - We look at a selection of school reports each year to assess whether the use of the Primary PE and sport premium described in the report meets the requirements outlined within this guidance and the conditions of grant document. If we identify concerns or discrepancies, we will contact the school to address and investigate these fully. If any concerns are confirmed, we’ll take appropriate and proportionate action against the school, which may include action to recover funding. Similarly, if the Department is notified of a school’s deviation from the conditions of grant, this will be investigated and actioned accordingly.
- Digital tool - A new digital tool will be introduced in the summer for schools to report on their spending of the Primary PE and sport premium. This digital tool will capture how a school has spent its Primary PE and sport premium. For the academic year 23/24 we will be piloting the digital tool, with completion becoming a requirement for the 24/25 academic year.
- Local authority section 151 officer forms - This form provides assurances to ESFA and the Department for Education that the funds for pre-16 and post-16 (non-dedicated schools grant) have been used for the intended purposes, in line with the terms and conditions of the conditions of grants and

the funding rules, and that the S151 officer is not aware of any errors, exceptions or fraud.

2.11 Do Ofsted inspect the Primary PE and sport premium?

The Primary PE and sport premium is not inspected by Ofsted.

2.12 Can we spend the premium on swimming and water safety?

The Primary PE and sport premium cannot be used on teaching the minimum requirements of the national curriculum or for academies, the existing PE curriculum.

However, schools can use their Primary PE and sport premium to raise attainment in primary school swimming and water safety by funding top-up swimming and water safety sessions for those pupils that do not meet national curriculum requirements after they’ve completed core swimming and water safety lessons.

Schools are free to choose when pupils receive swimming and water safety lessons. For example, some schools provide lessons for pupils in a single year (e.g., Year 5 or Year 6), some schools choose to start lessons early in KS1 and other schools may provide lessons to pupils across more than one year. It is necessary that any top-up swimming lessons are delivered after the provision of core/planned lessons.

The inability to float on either the front or the back, or travel 10 metres after ten lessons, is a useful indication that a pupil needs additional support to meet the minimum expectations.

Early identification of pupils who need extra support to develop their skills further is very useful and may well have cost advantages to schools. Booking additional time in advance for a block period may mean pool operators are more willing to offer their facilities at a lower price.

Some schools identify pupils who won’t meet the minimum outcomes on a rolling process, offering top-up lessons after each term.

2.13 Can schools use the funding for transport for core swimming lessons?

The Primary PE and sport premium should not be spent on teaching the minimum requirements of the national curriculum. Spending the premium on transport for core swimming lessons would not meet the conditions of grant.

2.14 Can you use the Primary PE and sport premium for transport for TOP-UP swimming?

Schools can use Primary PE and sport premium funding to provide top-up swimming sessions for those pupils that do not meet national curriculum requirements after they've completed core swimming lessons. It is up to schools to determine how premium funding should be utilised to provide these sessions for their pupils.

2.15 Can Primary PE and sport premium be used to maintain the school pool?

Schools must assess whether spending on pool maintenance would fall under capital expenditure. The guidance and conditions of grant provide more detail on how capital expenditure is defined.

We would recommend speaking to a professional, or your schools finance officer to determine whether these costs would fall into that category of spend.

3. Digital Tool

3.1 Do we need to complete a Primary PE and sport premium report and complete the digital tool?

Schools are still required to publish an annual Primary PE and sport premium report on their school website by 31st July 2024.

This report demonstrates how the Government grant is being utilised to better support children within schools. These reports are visible for parents, governors, local authorities, multi-academy trust leadership etc.

The digital tool is a quick form that is purely for the use of the DfE. This digital tool will improve the Department's data collection and improve the accountability of the Primary PE and sport premium grant. The data collected will help improve the policy moving forward, ensuring it remains fit for purpose.

The digital tool will not be accessible throughout the whole academic year, it will go live towards the end of the academic year and will be open for several weeks. Details on how to access the digital tool will be circulated through external stakeholders and via DfE schools' newsletters in advance.

It is essential that schools continue to plan and monitor the use of their Primary PE and sport premium spending in readiness to complete the digital tool. We will look to see how these two documents can better work together for 24/25, utilising feedback from the digital tool pilot.

3.2 How will schools be selected to pilot the digital tool?

The digital tool will be open to all schools during the pilot. The reason we are referring to this as a 'pilot' is because it will be a choice for schools to complete it or not. We are hopeful that many schools choose to complete this, so that the Department can get some helpful feedback prior to it becoming a mandatory tool for the 24/25 academic year. The Department will circulate a feedback form to all schools next September, to ensure feedback is addressed prior to the mandatory digital tool going live in Summer 2025.

3.3 Were schools consulted on the additional workload?

The Department outlined its plans for improved accountability to both the Association for PE (afPE) and the Youth Sport Trust (YST). Whilst all parties acknowledge this is an additional request for schools, there was a joint consensus that this additional reporting requirement will improve accountability for the Primary PE and sport premium and will provide the Department with necessary data to ensure improvements continue.

The Department did not consult with schools on this as it is not a large enough requirement to warrant formal consultation. The Department has instead committed to continue engagement with schools via regular webinars through afPE and YST. The Department also has a dedicated PE premium email, should schools wish to get in

4. Swimming and water safety

4.1 Who is checking that a school is publishing their swimming and water safety data?

The Department dip samples a selection of schools' published Primary PE and sport premium reports. Through this sample, the Department looks to confirm that the use of the Primary PE and sport premium described in the report meets the requirements outlined within the guidance and the conditions of grant document.

The new digital Primary PE and sport premium reporting tool will collect details on swimming and water safety attainment. The digital tool will be piloted for the academic year 2023 to 2024, before becoming a mandatory requirement for schools to complete it from the 2024 to 2025 academic year.

[DfE Guidance](#)

[Website Reporting Template](#)





Additional Guidance

1. What are the current curriculum expectations for swimming and water safety?

The National Curriculum expectations for swimming and water safety can be found in the National Curriculum for PE.

Academies do not need to follow the National Curriculum, but they must provide a broad and balanced curriculum.

Further guidance for schools on how to teach pupils to meet the National Curriculum expectations and assess pupils' capability is provided by Swim England.

Swimming and water safety is a vital life skill and the School Sport and Activity Action Plan update highlights that all pupils should also be taught practical water safety techniques in a pool, such as how to float, tread water, signal for help and exit from deep water. This can be complemented by classroom-based lessons that go further and cover aspects such as cold water shock, beach flags or the dangers of rip currents. Water Safety Resources for schools are available from the Royal Life Saving Society UK.

2. How much time should we spend on swimming and water safety lessons?

The Department for Education does not set an expectation for the amount of time or number of swimming and water safety lessons that should be provided to pupils. Schools use a variety of delivery models and are best placed to work with their local pool operators to agree a programme that meets the needs of their pupils.

Many children will have swimming lessons outside of school. The National Curriculum sets the minimum

expectations for swimming and water safety and every pupil should be given the same opportunity for core swimming and water lessons at primary school. A pupil's capability should be assessed against the National Curriculum requirements during their school swimming and water safety lessons. This data should be used when reporting on swimming and water safety attainment for the PE and sport premium template and digital tool.

3. What can I do to offer swimming and water safety support for my pupils who have Special Education Needs and Disabilities?

Pupils with SEND may face additional challenges to learn to swim and know how to be safe in and around the water, and we recognise that meeting National Curriculum expectations is likely to be very challenging for some children. The Department for Education is funding the Inclusion 2024 programme to increase and improve access to PE and sport for children with SEND, which includes a specific project on swimming and water safety. The Inclusion Hub has a range of support for teachers and parents to help pupils with SEND achieve their full potential, as set out in the SEND Code of Practice:

"All pupils should have access to a broad and balanced curriculum. The National Curriculum Inclusion Statement states that teachers should set high expectations for every pupil, whatever their prior attainment. Teachers should use appropriate assessment to set targets which are deliberately ambitious. Potential areas of difficulty should be identified and addressed at the outset. Lessons should be planned to address potential areas of difficulty and to remove barriers to pupil achievement. In many cases, such planning will mean that pupils with SEN and disabilities will be able to study the full national curriculum."

Schools are able to find their local Lead Inclusion School for further support on the Youth Sport Trust's website. Schools may also wish to use their Premium reporting template to highlight the actions undertaken to support pupils with SEND and the progress they have achieved.