active norfolk

May 2021

# Opening School Facilities: Application Guidance

Context:

Sport England and the Department of Education are investing £10.1 million nationally to support schools in opening up their facilities for extra-curricular and community use. The Opening School Facilities fund is available for Norfolk schools through Active Norfolk with an application window open now!

This investment comes at an important time given the impact Covid-19 has had on the falling activity levels of children and young people and will provide rapid support to schools to further support the health and wellbeing of young people and their local communities.

Criteria:

The objective of this fund is to support schools to open their facilities and spaces outside of the normal school day, allowing local young people more places and opportunities to be physically active. The desire is for prompt intervention with expectation of young people being able to benefit from this funding from the summer term 2021 onwards.

It is anticipated that the main beneficiaries will be secondary schools, **however applications are encouraged from all schools** who feel this funding can provide significant opportunities to support physical activity and will be assessed on their own merits.

Funding will be prioritised towards schools that:

- Have a high percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals
- Have the least active pupils and will be e of this investment
- Can provide more opportunities for pupils with SEND to take part in activities (mainstream or SEND schools)
- Do not use, or only have limited access to their school sports facilities outside of the school day
- Previously had an out of school hours/community offer that has since ceased due to Covid restrictions

Young people should be consulted and engaged in designing the offer/programme to ensure it meets their immediate and future needs.

The longer-term objective is that more schools will be able to develop sustainable income generation from leasing their facilities to external groups or organisations at affordable rates. Pupils will also benefit from having greater access and opportunity to take part in activities after school, at weekends and during holidays, on a regular basis.

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What can this funding for schools be used for?

We expect funding to be used to help schools to offer extra-curricular opportunities including opening facilities in a COVID-19 secure manner. Examples include:

1. Helping schools with their own on-site swimming pool to safely open these – this can include purchasing water testing kits and plant servicing etc, following guidance from Swim England

2. Helping schools to meet Covid-19 measures by purchasing additional signage, touch free entry points, perspex screens etc., and additional cleaning equipment

3. Purchase of additional sports, activity, and storage equipment

4. Improving the accessibility of school sports facilities, especially for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. This could include procuring adaptive sports equipment

5. Where appropriate, providing funding for additional short-term staffing challenges which currently prevent a school from opening facilities or delivering activities

6. Utilising funding to cover activity delivery costs to establish new sustainable links with community sports clubs / providers

**Please note: Large scale capital / building works are not eligible items of expenditure, nor is loss of revenue due to closure of facilities during the period of restrictions.**

We are keen for as many schools as possible to be able to access this fund. Therefore, the maximum funding grant awarded to a school will be £5000 (unless there are very exceptional circumstances meaning further funding is required).

Please complete and return the accompanying application form by **9am Thursday 10th June 2021**

• Applications will be reviewed by a panel and we will aim to let you know the outcome of your submission within 10 days of the deadline date.

We will endeavour to work with applicants to ensure submissions are successful (where these are able to meet the required criteria)

• Payment will be made to successful schools within 30 days of a signed SLA being returned to Active Norfolk

• Successful applications should aim to commence operation as soon as possible to bring maximum benefit to local young people. This should be no later than the second week of September.

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If you have any questions please email george.webster@activenorfolk.org

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