

Use of the Primary PE and Sports Premium

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Advice from the ASA on using your Primary PE and Sports Premium

Primary schools in England are provided with government funding of £150 million per annum to improve their provision of physical education and sport – the Primary PE and Sports Premium. The government have committed to continue this funding until 2020.

Purpose of the funding

Schools must spend the funding on improving their provision of PE and sport, but they have the freedom to choose how they do this. The Department for Education have provided an overall vision, objective and specific indicators as to the use of the funding in schools:

Vision

All pupils leaving primary school physically literate and with the knowledge, skills and motivation necessary to equip them for a healthy lifestyle and lifelong participation in physical activity and sport.

Objective

To achieve self-sustaining improvement in the quality of PE and sport in primary schools. The Department for Education expects indicators of such improvement to include:

- the engagement of all pupils in regular physical activity – kick-starting healthy active lifestyles
- the profile of PE and sport being raised across the school as a tool for whole school improvement
- increased confidence, knowledge and skills of all staff in teaching PE and sport
- broader experience of a range of sports and activities offered to all pupils
- increased participation in competitive sport

The conditions of the funding make it clear that the Primary PE and Sports Premium should not be used to deliver the minimum requirements of the national curriculum, including those prescribed for swimming.

However, funding can be spent on additional or enhanced swimming activities – such as those outlined in this document. The funding can also be spent on resources and training which will improve the quality of the experience children receive. The funding should be used by schools to enhance, not maintain, the provision that already exists.

Possible uses for the funding

- Hiring qualified swimming teachers/coaches to work with school teachers
- Providing existing staff with training or resources to help them teach PE and sport more effectively
- Introducing new sports or activities and encourage more pupils to take up sport, such as synchronised swimming or water polo
- Supporting and involving the least active children by running or extending school sports clubs, holiday clubs and Change4Life clubs
- Running aquatic sport competitions
- Increasing pupil participation in the School Games
- Running sports activities with other schools

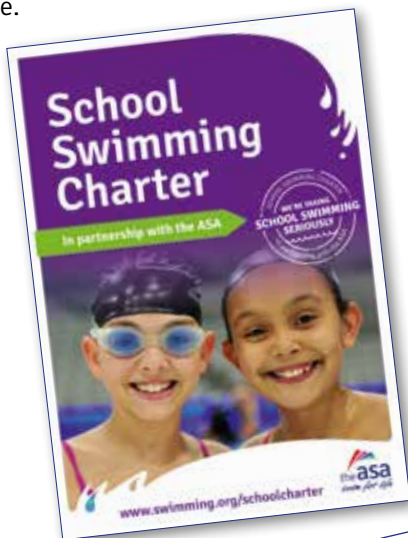
The ASA provides the following advice to primary schools on use of the funding:

School Swimming Charter

Resources and support to improve school swimming

The School Swimming Charter is an initiative driven by the ASA which aims to create a direct relationship between the national governing body for swimming and primary schools in England for the very first time. We are encouraging primary schools to sign up to the Charter at www.swimming.org/schoolcharter and commit to 'Taking School Swimming Seriously'. In return for a minimal annual charge schools will receive a comprehensive package of support from the ASA:

- **School Swimming Charter document** explaining the Charter in detail
- **National Curriculum Resource Pack** – splash proof folder containing three comprehensive guidance booklets on delivering school swimming
- **Package of eight different Awards** including badges and certificates for awarding to pupils
- **Waterproof Guidance cards** with the required outcomes and illustrations for each Award to help teachers at poolside
- **Package of School Swimming Passports** including stickers for each Award, for each pupil to record their progress
- **Aquasplash Festival Pack** – splash proof folder containing a guidance booklet, DVD and activity cards giving full details on how to run a swimming festival
- **Resource storage bag**
- **Digital resources** including demonstration videos illustrating each Award outcome, a School Swimming Stamp and template materials for use in the class and at poolside.



Top-Up Swimming

An intervention designed to provide additional help to those pupils who may be struggling to learn to swim, or who would benefit from extra support with certain strokes or techniques. Pupils will also be expected to develop other ranges of skills building on the Key Stage 2 requirements, which are about general water confidence and water safety. Top-Up Swimming is typically delivered via intensive swimming lessons spread over 10 half hour lessons, every day, over two school weeks.

• How to identify pupils

These lessons should be targeted at those pupils who would benefit from extra support to help them become confident, competent and proficient swimmers. However, identifying likely participants can sometimes be difficult. An experienced eye is important and this is where the expertise of a qualified swimming teacher can play a key role. The inability to float on either the front or the back after 10 lessons is a useful yardstick.

• When to identify pupils

It is important to have a general idea of the likely number of participants as early as possible in the year and to identify the pupils who are struggling to become proficient swimmers in Year 5.

Early identification of pupils who either need extra support or additional challenges to develop their skills further is very useful, and may well have cost advantages to a school. The ability to book additional time in advance for a block period could mean that pool operators are more willing to offer the facilities at a lower price.

Many schools hold their Top-Up lessons during or very close to the last two weeks of the summer term. If a school is planning to stage Top-Up lessons during the second part of the summer term, a decision on participants needs to have been made by the start of May ideally, so that activities can commence before the end of the summer term.

For some schools, this may be difficult because of the number of end of term activities already taking place. Some schools identify pupils with difficulties during the year and then offer Top-Up lessons as the year progresses.

Additional swimming teachers

School swimming can be radically improved by providing additional swimming teachers. This reduces ratios and in turn improves quality by allowing for more individual communication and feedback during lessons. Reducing teaching ratios and improving quality will see significant improvements in pupil attainment levels.

Additional swimming sessions

In many instances schools do not provide school swimming lessons often enough and do not strive to exceed expected minimum standards. With two core units to cover, the minimum amount of water time should be 25 hours. The more time children spend in the water, the greater their confidence, stamina and technical improvement.

Therefore, use of funding to pay for additional swimming sessions would be of great benefit. Additional sessions could be achieved in three ways:

1. Extra weeks added to the school swimming programme
2. Intensive swimming schemes (e.g.; two weeks x 30 minutes each day)
3. Out of Hours School Learning/Extended Schools Service

Increasing water time

Tradition suggests that the majority of school swimming is delivered as 30 minute sessions on a weekly basis, with organisation, transport and changing all taken into account.

This means that 30 minutes does not necessarily mean 30 minutes of water time. School swimming would be greatly improved if sessions were 45 to 60 minutes long. Longer session times would enable a much greater focus on links to other curriculum subjects and more time spent going beyond the minimum requirements of the programme of study

Training

The quality of school swimming is a significant factor in helping children become competent and confident swimmers. To ensure swimming teachers provide high quality delivery and are up to speed with latest teaching methods, regular training and CPD sessions are vital.

The National Curriculum Training Programme (NCTP) is designed for class teachers and other adults who already have an established relationship with your pupils. These individuals are the best placed people to make school swimming a success in your school.

For them to become confident in the delivery of swimming lessons at statutory national curriculum levels and beyond, they need support, training and the necessary resources. The NCTP equips them with the right skills and knowledge to deliver high quality school swimming lessons to help schools meet and exceed national curriculum requirements.

Visit www.swimming.org/schoolswimming to find out more and book.

Extended opportunities

For those swimmers who are already confident and competent, why not consider offering extended opportunities for them to improve their swimming technique even further or develop new skills in other aquatic disciplines. Swimming teachers and classroom teachers can easily undertake additional specialised training to become confident in supporting pupils who have the potential or interest in taking their swimming ability a step further. Online professional development modules are available in competitive swimming, water polo, synchronised swimming and diving.

Visit www.swimming.org/schoolswimming to find out more and book.

Monitoring and evaluation

Regular monitoring and evaluation of school swimming is vital in maintaining and improving standards. Key areas to be considered include:

- Scheme of work
- Lesson content
- Swimming teachers
- Clear pathways – linking to after schools programmes/ additional opportunities
- Reward and recognition through the use of the School Swimming Charter Awards

Further information

For queries on the advice contained in this document please contact us at schoolswimming@swimming.org

If your school requires further assistance and support with school swimming, why not sign up to the School Swimming Charter at www.swimming.org/schoolcharter. For a minimum annual fee your school will benefit from a substantial package of support from the ASA.

This document has been prepared in consultation with the Department for Education's PE and School Sport Team.

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