

# COVID-19

## Frequently Asked Questions



Updated COVID-19 guidance for schools has been published (**for use from 8th March**).  
[Schools coronavirus \(COVID-19\) operational guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/91222/schools-coronavirus-covid-19-operational-guidance)

Some of the most common questions arising from this are outlined below along with an answer and explanation. It is up to each employer to use the guidance and come to your own conclusions, however the afPE responses may help you to decide the most appropriate actions for your context.

“ 1  
*Can we play fixtures between schools?*”

No. There is an update to the line on inter-school competition, which now reads ‘Competition between different schools should **not** take place until wider grassroots sport for under 18s is permitted.’ This is to help align with DCMS guidance on grassroots sport.

“ 2  
*Do we have to wear face coverings in PE lessons?*”

No. The department has issued updated guidance on face coverings for secondary pupils. Face coverings should be worn in classrooms or during activities unless social distancing can be maintained. This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons.

“ 3  
*Can we teach all activities in physical education?*”

Yes. You have the flexibility to decide how physical education, sport and physical activity will be provided while following the measures in your system of controls. Pupils should be kept in consistent groups and sports equipment should be thoroughly cleaned between each use by different individual groups.

“ 4  
*Can we teach PE indoors?*”

Yes. You can hold PE lessons indoors, including those that involve activities related to team sports, for example practising specific techniques, within your own system of controls.

For sport provision, outdoor sports should be prioritised where possible, and large indoor spaces used where it is not, maximising natural ventilation flows (through opening windows and doors or using air conditioning systems wherever possible), distancing between pupils, and paying scrupulous attention to cleaning and hygiene. This is particularly important in a sport

setting because of the way in which people breathe during exercise.

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“ 5  
*Can we use external facilities?*”

Yes. External facilities can also be used in line with government guidance for the use of, and travel to and from, those facilities.

“ 6  
*Can we use external coaches to support our curriculum?*”

Yes. You can work with external coaches, clubs and organisations for curricular and extra-curricular activities. You must be satisfied that it is safe to do.

“ 7  
*Can we promote physical activity in a school setting?*”

Yes. Activities such as active miles, making break times and lessons active and encouraging active travel can help pupils to be physically active while encouraging physical distancing.

“ 8  
*Do children have to remain bubbles or can they mix if need be?*”

Whatever the size of the group, they should be kept apart from other groups where possible. Encourage pupils to keep their distance within groups. Try to limit interaction, sharing of rooms and social spaces between groups as much as possible. Both the approaches of separating groups and maintaining distance are not ‘all or nothing’ options and will still bring benefits, even if partially implemented. You may keep pupils in their class groups for most of the classroom time, but also allow mixing in wider groups for:

- specialist teaching
- wraparound care
- transport
- boarding pupils who may be in one group residentially and another during the school day

Siblings may also be in different groups.

“ 9  
*Can teachers teach different groups?*”

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Yes. All teachers and other staff can operate across different classes and year groups to facilitate the delivery of the timetable and specialist provision. Where staff need to move between groups, they should try and keep their distance from pupils and other staff as much as they can, ideally 2 metres from other adults. Try to minimise the number of interactions or changes wherever possible.

“ 10  
*Can we use outdoor play equipment?*”

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Yes. Outdoor playground equipment should be more frequently cleaned than normal. This also applies to resources used inside and outside by wraparound care and out-of school settings providers.

“ 11  
*Can we use before and after school activity or clubs?*”

From 8 March, you should work to resume all your before and after-school educational activities and wraparound childcare for your pupils, where this provision is necessary to support parents to work, attend education and access medical care, and is as part of pupil's wider education and training. Vulnerable children can attend these settings regardless of circumstance.



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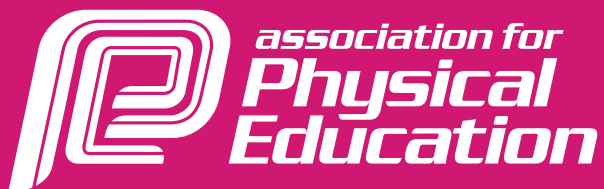


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