

Appendix B

Childcare Expansion Programme – Wraparound and Expanded Early Years Offer

Eligible Capital Expenditure (Extract from DfE Capital Guidance November 2023)

1. Intended Purpose of the Funding

Whilst it is ultimately up to local authorities to determine how best to prioritise this funding to address local priorities, it must be spent on capital projects, and is being provided to meet the capital costs associated with projects that help ensure sufficient places for:

- Children taking up an early years place through the expanded 30-hours entitlement for qualifying working parents (from the term following the child reaching 9-months to the term in which they turn 3-years-old);
- Increasing the supply of wraparound childcare for primary-school aged children.
- Local authorities may also consider use of this grant to fund central capital works (e.g., modifications to IT systems, etc..) where they are necessary to enable the roll-out of entitlements.

2. Capital Definition

To be considered capital expenditure the asset must bring an economic benefit, and able to be depreciated, over more than one financial year.

3. Funding Provider Types

The funding can be used to provide new places in a range of provider types, where these are offering the 30-hours early years entitlement and/or providing wraparound provision for primary-aged children. This includes, but is not limited to:

- **Private, Voluntary and Independent Providers:**
 - Private group-based providers, registered with Ofsted
 - Voluntary group-based providers, registered with Ofsted
 - Independent providers registered with Ofsted

Offering Early Years Entitlements and/or Wraparound provision.

- **State-funded schools:**

- Local authority maintained primary, infant, and junior schools (including special schools)
- Primary, infant, or junior academies or free schools (including special schools)
- Maintained nursery schools.

Offering Early Years Entitlements and/or Wraparound provision

- **Childminders and childcare on domestic premises registered with Ofsted**

Offering Early Years Entitlements and/or Wraparound provision

4. Suggested Types of Work

This funding should be spent in ways that best match the needs of local communities, focusing on projects that will increase the physical capacity of early years and wraparound provision in local areas where demand is likely to exceed existing supply.

5. Examples of appropriate Early Years Projects

- Projects that enable and/or increase access to childcare places for eligible children;
- Projects that adapt, re-model or improve existing childcare places to make them suitable for a wider range of needs;
- Central capital works required to enable delivery of the entitlement.

These could be achieved through:

- Expansion of existing childcare provision, including expanding existing provision to a different or additional site;
- Remodelling of existing provision to create additional capacity;
- Creation of new childcare places, whether via the creation of new settings, or expanding provision in existing providers;
- Modifications or improvements to central IT systems used by the local authority to deliver the entitlements.

6. Examples of appropriate Wraparound Projects:

- Projects that enable the creation of new wraparound places and/or increase access to wraparound places (where suitability of space may be a concern);
- Projects that adapt, remodel or improve existing wraparound provision to make them suitable for a wider range of needs;
- Purchasing fixed assets required to deliver wraparound provision.

These could be achieved through:

- Building modifications to enable use of space outside main school/setting operating hours, e.g., secure external access, outside lighting to enable outdoor space to be used year-round;
- Building modifications to adapt space for use to deliver inclusive wraparound childcare;
- Improvements to storage;
- New physical assets such as:
 - Minibus purchase (to support a hub model of wraparound provision),
 - Play equipment (including outdoor play equipment), or tables and chairs.

7. Grant Funding will not fund:

- Routine maintenance or refurbishment of premises;
- Capital works to maintain and improve the condition of the school estate, which should continue to be covered by Devolved Formula Capital funding (DFC), the Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) or School Condition Allocations (SCA);
- Childcare providers not providing Early Years entitlements or wraparound care.
- Revenue expenditure of any kind, such as training or staff costs, resources/assets that do not meet the definition of capital expenditure given above (such as toys, books, clothing), etc