

This briefing provides a summary of The Department for Education's latest update on the Primary PE and Sport Premium and provides context about the background, uses and impact of this funding.

Summary

Primary PE and Sport Premium for the 2015 to 2016 financial year

- The Department for Education has formally announced that the PE and Sport Premium funding for primary schools **remains the same as last year**, meaning schools with primary-aged pupils will receive the premium for the 2015 to 2016 academic year on the same basis as last year.
- This works out at a total of £150million - roughly £9,000 for a typical primary school with 250 children
- First instalments will be paid to local authorities on behalf of local-authority-maintained schools on 29 October 2015 and to academies on 2 November 2015.
- Further details including allocation breakdowns, updated grant conditions and detailed guidance will be published before the start of the autumn term.

The Primary PE and Sport Premium

The Primary PE & Sport Premium was introduced in 2013 and saw the government allocate funding of £150 million per annum for academic years 2013 to 2014 and 2014 to 2015 to improve provision of physical education (PE) and sport in primary schools in England. This funding would go directly to primary school headteachers in order for them to decide how to use it to best provide PE and sporting activities for pupils.

This funding - provided jointly by the Departments for Education, Health and Culture, Media and Sport - is allocated to primary school headteachers. The funding is ring-fenced and therefore can only be spent on provision of PE and sport in schools.

In the Autumn Statement 2013, the Chancellor, George Osborne **announced an additional year's £150m extended funding, taking the total investment to the end of the 2016 academic year.**

On 6th February 2014 the Prime Minister, David Cameron committed to continue the funding for the Primary PE & Sport Premium until 2020.

On Friday 17th July the Department for Education formally announced that The PE and Sport Premium funding for primary schools remains the same as last year, meaning schools with primary-aged pupils will receive the premium for the 2015 to 2016 academic year on the same basis as last year.

Department for Education announcement can be found [here](#)

Spending the premium funding

It is up to schools to determine how best to use this additional funding. Some examples of how schools have used or have planned to use this funding include:

- Paying the most effective teachers an enhanced allowance to lead improvements in PE and school sport and provide staff training on how to teach PE well
- Employing specialist PE teachers or qualified coaches to work alongside teachers in lessons to increase their subject knowledge and confidence in PE
- Employing a specialist teacher or providing professional development for staff to lead after-school sports clubs for disabled pupils and those with special educational needs
- Providing cover staff to release teachers for professional development in PE and sport
- Purchasing specialist equipment and teaching resources to develop a non-traditional activity such as rhythmic gymnastics or a new sport such as competitive cycling
- Procuring quality-assured professional training for staff to raise their confidence and competence in teaching PE and sport
- Paying staff or external sports coaches to run competitions, or to increase pupils' participation in national school games competitions
- Buying into existing local sports networks such as school sport partnerships or community sports coaching initiatives
- Pooling funding to employ qualified teaching assistants to provide regular sports tournaments, festivals and competitions for pupils of all ages
- Employing expert advice to evaluate the school's current strengths and weaknesses in PE and sport, and implement plans for improvement
- Providing places for pupils in after-school sport clubs and holiday courses
- Engaging the least active pupils in after school activities, for example 'Change4Life' after school clubs
- Paying for transport, pool hire and instruction to provide additional swimming lessons (as opposed to existing arrangements made by schools to teach swimming as part of the national curriculum) for those pupils unable to swim by the end of Year 6
- In small, rural or city schools with limited indoor space for PE, paying for transport and access to indoor leisure facilities for weekly PE lessons

Read more about how funding can be used [here](#)

Impact of the Premium

The DfE have stressed that the interim findings of their independent research of the Primary PE and Sport Premium suggest that it is having a positive impact on PE and school sport. A research brief was published in September 2014 and the final report will be published in the autumn. Since the funding was introduced their research - although limited - suggests that time spent on curricular PE at primary level has increased by 13 minutes from 109 to 122 minutes, from 2012/13 to 2013/14 whilst 91% of schools reported an increase in the quality of PE teaching.

Despite the positive contribution that the premium has made in boosting the quality of PE and sporting opportunities for young people, it can be argued that it has been limited in its scope as a result of its branding and positioning. A reposition to focus on health through addressing inactivity would support its growth through partnerships with stakeholders in the public health community such as Local Authority public health teams.

ukactive's latest report 'Generation Inactive' argued that the premium's current brand and name fails to address the core issue of inactivity and the idea that there are numerous fun and efficient ways that children can be active throughout the school day that lie outside of PE lessons and organised sport that can ensure they get the recommended 60 minutes of daily activity. Rebranding the primary 'PE & Sport Premium' as the primary 'Physical Activity Premium' would serve to address this and open up a much broader range of partners to support. If our goal is health and 60 active minutes then we should be as interested in the way in which children get to and from school as we are in their technique in striking a hockey ball.

ukactive Kids' Generation Inactive report can be found [here](#)