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Advice and guidance for the Covid-19 Situation for the Children's Activity Provider sector during school reopening and social distancing

1. Context

On Wednesday 18th March 2020, the [Government announced](#) that schools across England would be closed from Monday 23rd March, for all children and young people except for those deemed vulnerable and those of key worker parents and guardians. As a result of these measures, the Government expected approximately 10% of all school age children and young people to be attending school throughout the closure period.

On Sunday 10th May 2020, the Government announced that from the week commencing 1 June at the earliest, it will be asking primary schools to welcome back children in nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6, alongside the children from the aforementioned priority groups. Government will also ask secondary schools, sixth form and further education colleges to offer some face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of year 10 and year 12 students who are due to take key exams next year, alongside the full time provision they are offering to priority groups.

Government are also asking nurseries and other early years providers, including childminders, to begin welcoming back all children. Alternative provision settings should mirror the approach being taken for mainstream schools and also offer some face-to-face support for years 10 and 11 students (as they have no year 12). Special schools, special post-16 institutions and hospital schools will work towards a phased return of more children and young people without a focus on specific year groups.

Currently Children's Activity Providers (organisations already delivering a range of services to school communities including; breakfast clubs, after school clubs, extended schools services and curriculum support) are being requested by select numbers of those schools still open at this time to support in delivery where it is needed.

The most recent government position on third party delivery support at this time is as follows:

Department for Education, Tuesday 24th March 2020

Given that it is vital to minimise travel and maintain social distancing, schools should only have staff from external organisations on site where it is absolutely essential to enable them to stay open for children of critical workers and vulnerable children and to ensure those children are safe. Before going to a school you should check with them whether or not your presence is essential. Schools should not be asking you to attend if it is not essential.

Supporting documents from Department for Education:

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings](#) - published 11th May 2020

[Planning guide for primary schools](#) – published 14th May 2020

2. 'Code of Conduct' for working with and supporting school delivery during social distancing

We are aware that each school will have its own needs, numbers of children attending, and protocols for social distancing and operational guidance for delivery. The below is a recommended and voluntary 'code of conduct' that ukactive advises all Children's Activity Providers observe when being requested to work with schools during this period of government imposed social distancing.

- Third party providers should adhere to Government guidance for [Staying alert and safe \(social distancing\)](#)
- Third party providers should only be providing support onsite for schools where absolutely essential and identified by the school as critical to ensure children are in a safe and engaging environment



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- Third party providers should adhere to each schools formal protocol regarding social distancing measures on school site (including the health, safety and cleaning measures of activity equipment)
- Third party providers should ensure regular meetings with each school Head Teacher and/or Senior Leadership Team to recurrently assess school support needs and whether their presence is still abosulately essential
- Third party providers should verify staff checks for delivery suitability, including; DBS, safeguarding, participant age groups, vulnerable children, and relevant and appropriate activity types
- Third party providers should regularly assess delivery staff health and welfare, adhering to [NHS guidance on self-isolation measures](#)
- If any member of staff deployed by the third party feels unwell or experiences any symptoms of COVID-19, they should notify the school leadership as soon as possible, use the [NHS 111 coronavirus service](#) and adhere to NHS guidance on self-isolation measures (as above)
- Third party providers should adhere to [Government guidance for travelling safely](#) during the coronavirus outbreak

The Children's Activity Provider sector plays a vital role in ensuring the ongoing health and well-being of children, young people and families across the country. We believe that this role has never been more important than at the current time of distress and is ready – by applying the measures outlined above - to play its full part in supporting schools and school communities through these difficult times.