



## Department for Education

The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP  
Secretary of State for Education

May 2026

### PE and School Sport Partnerships

Dear Dame Caroline,

I am writing to update you on changes to the Government's approach to supporting physical education, school sport and physical activity in schools, following recent announcements on the establishment of a new national PE and School Sport Partnerships Network.

For over a decade, successive governments have funded the PE and Sport Premium in primary schools, allocating funding on a per pupil basis but with no assessment of the specific needs of individual primary schools. While this has supported good practice in some areas, it has not consistently delivered the funding's full objectives, and we know that it has created a reporting burden on schools.

The DCMS Select Committee's recent *Game On* report also highlighted ongoing issues with consistency, benchmarking, transparency and accountability in PE and school sport funding.

In June 2025, the Prime Minister announced that we would establish a national network of PE and School Sport Partnerships to strengthen collaboration between schools, local sports providers and national governing bodies, and to target support towards pupils facing the greatest barriers to participation. The Network will replace the Primary PE and Sport Premium and extend provision to secondary schools. The Network will be in operation from January 2027. From then, all state-funded schools will be able to access support through a mixture of universal provision, and more targeted local support directed to schools that need it most, based on the Network Delivery Partners' needs analysis. Schools will be central to the Network's design and delivery, with a strong focus on championing effective practice and supporting the sharing of expertise and resources. The range of targeted support may include coaching, access to facilities, CPD, and stronger links with local clubs and community sport providers. The Partnerships Network will also incorporate the existing School Games Organiser Network to maintain local support.

We recognise that moving to a new approach will require careful planning. This is why during the next academic year (26/27) we will allocate £100m to provide eligible primary schools with a term's allocation of the PE and School Sport Premium as a final payment to support transition to the new approach. Further information, including allocations per school and conditions of grant, will be published as per the usual process.

We also recognise the longstanding request from schools for previous PE and Sport Premium funding to be used for capital projects, something that was not previously permitted. We are therefore developing a dedicated capital fund aimed at improving access to high-quality facilities that support physical activity and enrichment for

children and young people. Further details about how schools will be able to access this will be shared very soon.

I would be very happy to arrange a technical briefing for you, or your office, with my officials should that be helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Bridget Phillipson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Bridget" is written in a larger, more prominent script, and the surname "Phillipson" follows in a similar but slightly smaller script. The ink appears to be on a light-colored, possibly slightly textured paper.

**The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP**  
**Secretary of State for Education**