



Frequently Asked Questions

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1 Introduction to Wraparound

1.1 What is Wraparound Care?

Wraparound childcare is before and after school care for primary school aged children during term time, such as after school care that runs until 6pm. The childcare should be available every school day outside of regular school hours to enable parents to access quality childcare to work the hours they want to.

This is different from out-of-school activities, or school clubs, which are less frequent and can be a one-off activity. However, schools could support the delivery of wraparound in combination with enrichment and extracurricular activities.

Private, voluntary, and independent providers, including childminders and early years settings, are also able to offer wraparound childcare. Often, it's run on a school site or another setting in the local area.

1.2 What is the National wraparound childcare programme?

As part of the childcare reforms, the DfE's ambition is that all parents should have access to Wraparound childcare, either on their school site or by signpost parents to nearby provision so that parents can access employment.

In order to achieve this ambition, the government allocated £289m divided across local authorities to help fund the creation of new provisions or expansion of current provisions.

The programme is to provide affordable and quality provision for primary school-aged children. The aim is for provision to run from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday during term time to enable parents to work full time with travel time. There is room for some flexibilities if there is evidence that local demand for childcare requires different hours.

1.3 New flexibilities for partial places

As of July 2025, the Department for Education granted local authorities increased flexibility in how wraparound childcare can be delivered.

While the long-term ambition remains for full wraparound childcare from 8am to 6pm during term time, local authorities can now approve more flexible arrangements where there is evidence of need.

The minimum requirement for partial wraparound is:

- At least **30 minutes of provision before school**, and
- At least **90 minutes of provision after school**,
- Offered on a minimum of **three days per week**.

This flexibility allows schools and providers to respond to local demand, while still working towards the longer-term ambition of full wraparound care for all families.

2 Delivery Models and Partnerships

2.1 What are the different delivery models?

There are a range of delivery models, which can be broadly school-led, private provider-led, community-based, childminder, or early years based. This list is neither exhaustive nor mutually exclusive; there may well be overlap between some of these models.

Model	Descriptions
School-led	Delivered by school staff on a school site provision that operates on school premises, managed by staff employed directly by a school. The provision is open to all children in that school.
Private provider-led	On or off school site Provision that is operated and delivered by staff employed by a private provider. If based on a school site, the private provider

Model	Descriptions
	may rent space from the school to be able to operate provision. Provision could also be operated on another site rather than on school premises.
Community/cluster model	The local authority co-ordinates a community-focused model with children from multiple schools attending provision on one site. This could be operated by a lead school, a private provider, a community organisation or any other appropriate body
Childminders	Delivered by childminders (registered with Ofsted or a childminder agency), which schools and local authorities' signpost to. This could consist of a group of childminders working together on a single site or childminders working individually from their homes
Early years providers	Provision delivered by early years providers which may take school aged children during wraparound hours. For example, a local nursery or a pre-school operating on or off a school site may run the provision before and after school hours.

There is no one-size-fits-all model. For example, a school-based model may not work as well in a small school, where there may not be sufficient demand for it to be sustainable even when considering that demand may build over time. In this situation, drawing on local childminders may be the most appropriate model.

2.2 Can providers approach schools to use their grounds for wraparound care and is it compulsory for us to agree?

Yes, providers can approach schools and ultimately it will be for the school to determine how their grounds are used. This is a matter of negotiation and mutual benefit. Childcare providers who approach schools will need a detailed proposal, demonstrating the advantages for both parties and addressing any potential concerns. Open communication, collaboration, and a focus on the best interests of children should be formalised through signed partnership agreements.

Refer to the Guidance [Responding to requests for wraparound childcare - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/responding-to-requests-for-wraparound-childcare)

2.3 Would wraparound provision be included schools Ofsted inspection?

School managed wraparound	PVI/Childminder provision
<p>Ofsted regulates and inspects services that care for children and young people, including schools and their extended services. Wraparound care, managed directly by a school, typically falls under the school's existing Ofsted inspection rather than requiring a separate inspection.</p> <p>For more details refer to: How Ofsted inspects before- and after-school care and holiday provision (out of school settings) - GOV.UK</p>	<p>Provision on a school site run by a PVI provider or Childminder will normally require separate Ofsted registration. There may be circumstances where the provision comes under the '2-hour rule' but schools should encourage the PVI provider to register using the exception to the 2-hour rule.</p> <p>For more details refer to: Providing childcare and the 2-hour rule - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p>

Having a registered wraparound provision will ensure that eligible parents can access government support such as Tax-Free or Universal Credit childcare. This will help make the wraparound provision more affordable and financially sustainable.

3 Access and signposting

3.1 What is 'signposting' and what would be considered adequate signposting?

Schools that are unable to have wraparound on the school site are expected to ensure parents are, at a minimum, signposted to appropriate provision. These must not require parents to pick up or drop off their children between the school day and wraparound.

Schools can use their website, posters, social media and other communication channels they use to inform parents and carers of the available childcare options within their locality.

There is no penalty for schools who do not signpost. However, it is in the interest of the school to ensure they support parents by signposting to wraparound childcare.

3.2 Are Special Schools and Primary Pupil referral units required to provide wraparound childcare as well?

The guidance recommends that all wraparound providers, including schools and trusts, should make wraparound inclusive and accessible for all children. This includes children with special education needs and disabilities and children considered vulnerable.

4 Funding and affordability

4.1 How can we apply for this funding?

Funding can be applied for using this link [Wraparound Childcare Proposal Form 2025](#)

Applications are for projects delivering wraparound childcare places by the end of Autumn term 2025, subject to DfE funding. Proposals must be submitted within this timeframe to be considered and will be reviewed by our funding panel. Alongside your application it is a requirement to submit a parent survey and financial forecast, for which we have provided templates, or you may wish to use your own.

Please email these to Wraparoundprovision@leicester.gov.uk

- [Parent survey that you have undertaken for this purpose](#)
- [Financial forecast document](#)

4.2 What can the funding be used for?

Funding is intended to support the setup or expansion of wraparound childcare provision for primary aged children. Reducing the financial risk where demand may take time to build, it can help providers operate sustainably until numbers increase.

4.3 How much can we expect to receive?

Allocations will be confirmed on a case-by-case basis and are dependent on the number of places created and the financial forecast submitted.

4.4 Can parents receive financial support to help pay for the childcare costs?

Providers are encouraged to ask affordability questions in their parent surveys for wraparound services. This information will help to indicate what fees are realistic for families and should be used to shape your business plan for running a sustainable service beyond the funding programme.

The funding programme is not intended to reduce the costs to parents*. Parents of primary school aged children will still be expected to pay to access this provision.

To keep childcare costs as affordable as possible, schools should actively promote the government schemes available to parents, such as **Universal Credit childcare** and **Tax-Free childcare**. These can significantly help parents with the financial costs, more information can be found on [Homepage | Best Start in Life](#).

The programme funding is designed to support the initial setup or expansion of wraparound provision. It removes the immediate financial risk for schools where demand is not yet guaranteed, but with the

expectation that demand will grow over time. The aim is that once established, the new or expanded provision will become self-sustaining beyond the funded period.

**Programme funding could subsidise places for children of wraparound staff if schools identify this as necessary as part of their wraparound recruitment strategy.*

Where appropriate and financially sustainable, schools can use other funding sources to support certain children to access wraparound provision.

5 Demand and provision in your area

5.1 How do we know what provision is already in our area? How do I understand what the demand is for my school?

We can tell you based on the information we have collated as we have gathered this from various sources and through a survey across primary schools and the PVI sector, however this may not be the complete picture.

We have collated information we have gathered from various sources, including our survey across primary schools and PVI-CMs. We will look at how we can share some of this information. However, whilst this gives us an indication of availability it may not be the complete picture due to the gaps in information that is being provided to us. We would recommend schools to carry out some market research to identify and obtain details of provision in their area and contact us if there are any queries or if you need help understanding the information. Many schools as a starting point have carried out parental surveys to understand what the wraparound childcare need is for their families.

The directory of local provision can be found on [MyChoice Leicester City](#) by scrolling down the page you will be able to select the correct category to use and by using the appropriate filters you can search for local provision by postcode and distance.

5.2 Any advice on how to mitigate against a lack of data I can collect from parents?

Firstly, encourage parents to use online response platforms. By asking parents to complete the survey, you can potentially increase response rates.

Leicester is a multi-cultural city and to collect data from various cultural backgrounds can be challenging, offering multi-language support for wraparound childcare surveys. You may wish to consider helping parents complete their surveys as you will be familiar with your school community.

6 Staffing and recruitment

6.1 What are the qualifications and the Job Description in terms of wraparound childcare staff?

In general, wraparound staff do not need to have any formal qualifications but **are required to have** the following:

- Safeguarding training
- First aid training
- Food hygiene
- DBS checks

As well as having a good general education and experience of working with children. **Desirable qualifications** can include:

- Level 2 or 3 childcare qualification
- Training in behaviour management, inclusion and SEND
- Leadership management

If children are in reception or younger, staffing qualifications and ratios need to follow the requirements with the [Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework](#).

Additional information and support on recruitment can be found at:

- Childcare Works - [Leadership and Management | childcareworks.org.uk/wraparound-toolkit](#)
- eTeach - provide JDs and recruitment activity from other schools.

6.2 Does a Designated Safeguarding Lead need to be on site for wraparound care?

When a school manages a service on a school site, it is responsible for ensuring appropriate safeguarding policies and processes are in place.

For school run wraparound provision, your arrangements for child protection will apply.

You will need to:

- follow the statutory guidance on [keeping children safe in education](#)
- meet the Childcare Register's requirements, even if you are a school providing childcare that is not eligible for registration on the Childcare Register
- make sure all staff receive safeguarding training, and that they know the identity of the designated safeguarding lead (or deputies) and how to contact them
- make sure all staff, including volunteers, have obtained an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check
- make sure you have appropriate policies and procedures in place to identify and deal with safeguarding incidents quickly
- follow the safeguarding and welfare requirements within the [Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework](#), when children in reception year or younger are cared for.

For Wraparound care run by a PVI provider, schools have a responsibility to check that the above safeguarding procedures are in place. Both the school and PVI need to be clear of their roles and responsibilities and there must be clear and appropriate channels for communication.

6.3 Do we need to extend our existing wraparound until 6pm?

There is no current UK government policy or legislation that makes it compulsory for schools to extend existing wraparound care until 6pm. In some cases, schools could offer partial places, as outlined in section 1.3. However primary schools that do not offer full wraparound care would need to justify why they cannot provide wraparound childcare in their school. This might include evidence of insufficient demand, not having space, or where there is already similar provision in the area which can be signposted to.

We encourage schools to provide this information to us which we will share with the DfE. Please contact the project manager, Shahid.Dagia@leicester.gov.uk

7 Useful links

- [Wraparound Childcare Programme | LCC Family Hub](#)
- [Wraparound Childcare: Everything you need to know about before and after school childcare The Education](#)
- [Wraparound Childcare: guidance for schools and trusts in England](#)
- [DfE Webinar for Schools - National Wraparound Childcare Programme - childcareworks.org.uk](#)
- [Best Start in Life](#)
- [Tax Free Childcare](#)
- [Leicester City Council Mychoice Directory](#)

Recruitment

- [Leicester Employment Hub](#)
- [Do Something Big](#)

8 Further Support Available

8.1 Provider business planning support

Childcare Works is the national support partner for the early year's expansion and wraparound programmes, and they have launched a learning site which contains the [HUB for providers](#) which has a bank of resources for Early Years and Wraparound Childcare.

The early years resources include a page for [Provider business planning support \(childcareworks.org.uk\)](#) from where providers can access information and resources based on the PREPARE model for business planning.

PREPARE is an acronym for a series of steps organised in a way to review a business, take stock of the current business and its finances to help with decision making. To assist with each step, there is a series of short, recorded videos, to support providers. Providers should make use of these very useful HUB resources for their business planning and keep visiting the website regularly to access any updated and new resources which are made available there.

8.2 Marketing

Alongside funding that is available, there is also an allocation of funds to help with marketing of your wraparound provision. This can include printed materials such as flyers, posters and banners.

To discuss your marketing needs further, please contact the team:

- wraparound-provision@leicester.gov.uk
- [Marketing and Promotion - childcareworks.org.uk](#)

8.3 Training

High quality training depends on confident, well-trained staff. To support this, the wraparound childcare programme includes funding for training and continuing professional development (CPD) opportunities.

Training is fully funded through the programme and available to schools, PVI providers, and childminders delivering wraparound care.

Visit families.leicester.gov.uk/cpd-opportunities for the current available courses and booking information.