

Before/After School Childcare Provision

Key Points from DFE Guidance

We are aware that the [DFE guidance](#) on before and after school provision states that *Providers which are registered with Ofsted or with a Childminder Agency which have before and after school clubs on school premises and can ensure they follow the protective measures guidance, are able to operate.*

Only those registered providers which operate on school premises are able to operate. All other out of school settings are not able to reopen.

Childminding settings should consider how they can work with parents and carers to agree how best to manage any necessary journeys, for example pick-ups and drop-offs at schools, to reduce the need for a provider to travel with groups of children.

Our suggested guidance:

We are aware of the above DFE guidance, but also the challenges this presents to providers and working parents, now that more workplaces are reopening. Our suggested guidance for those providers who are considering providing a before or after school club for childcare is below in the form of some key considerations and principles. Any decision taken to provide this childcare must be driven by your risk assessment.

- **Maintain the school bubble**
 - Do not mix children from different schools
 - Keep children in the same groups/bubble they are in for the school day – liaise with the school to determine this and make sure it stays up to date
- **Run from the school site – where possible**
 - This is to minimise travel and risk of transmission during travel
 - If not on the school site
 - can you arrange own travel e.g. walking bus
 - Travel by minibus etc would need social distancing, agreeing to a staggered pick up/drop off times with the school
 - Run from a site which is contained e.g. no contact with other businesses
- **Eligible children**
 - the children of working parents and vulnerable children that are unable to secure alternative childcare and/or working arrangements
- **Implement protective measures** according to the [DFE guidance](#)
- **Maintain a separate space if possible**
 - If your site is used for other children in between times e.g. early years children during school hours is it possible to have a space only used by the morning and after school club?
 - If not you must thoroughly clean between groups
- **Check your relevant insurance policies**
- **Update and maintain your risk assessment**

If you would like to liaise with a particular school about supporting families/children from that school and you don't already have these arrangements in place, we can support you to broker this arrangement. Please contact childcare brokerage on: Early.Years@essex.gov.uk.