

COVID-19 Guidelines

Physical education teaching in schools and settings

Prepared by

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This document has been based on the most up-to-date information released by the UK Government, Department of Education and Public Health England to support schools in the management of Physical Education, School Sport and Physical Activity during the phased return to schools. It also complements the guidance shared by The Association for Physical Education. www.afpe.org.uk .

This document provides recommendations on good practice for Physical Education or Physical Activity contexts to support physical distancing when equipment or sports gear cannot be shared between young people, and they must be 2m apart.

These recommendations refer to the types of movement typically found on school grounds, during Physical Education lessons, breaks, playtimes and lunchtimes, School Sport, Physical Activity and incidental movement.

There should be no pressure for staff to teach to 'a catch up' model.

Schools should be confident that exceptions/adjustments can be made.

This should then nurture a growth environment as the academic year rolls out.

| Guidance | Recommended good practice in school |
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| <p>Equipment should not be shared.</p> <p>This means no sports kit or equipment that travels, or is passed from one student to another using their hands should be used (ropes, balls, sticks, bats, rackets, gym mats, etc.).</p> | <p>If you have a small number of young people, and there is capacity – clean the equipment, and provide it for each child. This kit can only be touched/returned by that child. Instructions should be clear to this effect. This kit becomes 'theirs' and theirs alone whilst they are in the lesson. After the lesson, all equipment should be cleaned/sanitised before the next class.</p> |
| <p>There should be no organised contact activities (including team practices or training).</p> <p>High risk activities or new skills beyond the young people's capabilities should be avoided. i.e. gymnastics where you cannot spot or support young people that are inverted.</p> | <p>Individualise activities as much as possible.</p> <p>Safety is paramount – if the child can do a skill safely and it is well within their ability, then allow it.</p> <p>Discourage activities that are physically challenging for the child, which might require adult intervention or physical support, or could result in injury.</p> |
| <p>Non-contact sports, or games where young people are close (within 2m) should not take place.</p> <p>Fixed Playground equipment cannot be used.</p> <p>Outdoor fields, playgrounds, courts, or artificial surfaces are ok but 2m physical distancing is required</p> <p>No shared gym equipment is to be used.</p> | <p>Plan activities and contexts where young people can be 2m apart and do not need to touch or use equipment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Walking & running</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical distanced follow-my- leader. • Creative/rhythm walking. • Running/jogging/skipping activities. • Free running. • Personal challenges (distances and times). 2. <i>Individual orienteering activities on the school site</i> 3. <i>Teacher led activities where young people copy or mirror</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yoga • Dance • Aerobics 4. <i>Personal physical challenges, strength-based challenges or flexibility-based challenges.</i> |

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| <p>The 2m social distancing regime must be respected when young people are changing for PE lessons</p> | <p>When there are timetabled Physical Education lessons, consider encouraging young people to wear PE uniform all day. This would enable safer management of young people, when they would normally be changing before or after PE lessons. Allowing young people to remain in kit all day would minimise to mitigate the risk and increase learning time.</p> <p>Consider having spare clothes as a contingency for wet weather</p> |
| <p>Group sizes should not exceed 15, and a 'bubble' should be created around those children.</p> | <p>Groups can be smaller, but do not mix 'bubbles' to make larger PE groups. The use of coaches to lead PE lessons must be risk assessed. The movement of coaches between schools on the same day should be avoided.</p> |
| <p>Robust hygiene regimes before and after Physical Education lessons or movement/physical activity breaks.</p> | <p>Young people and adults wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds before and after activity.</p> <p>Use of hand sanitizer should be available.</p> <p>All equipment with a hard surface should be cleaned/sanitised after use – any soft equipment, should also be washed?</p> <p>For some equipment used in a lesson, there may be value in wiping down surfaces during activities.</p> <p>Have a bag to contain any tissues, wipes used during an activity and dispose of according to current guidance.</p> |
| <p>Do not share drink bottles/whistles/bibs/bands etc.</p> | <p>Avoid using Whistles unless in emergencies. Use non-verbal cues, or clapping signals for gaining attention.</p> <p>Lock away kit and equipment that is 'tempting' to grab habitually.</p> <p>Bibs and bands should not be used or shared.</p> |
| <p>Clear, visual signage in open spaces reminding students to stay apart and wash their hands.</p> | <p>'Non-threatening' Posters that clearly indicate the guidance visually are ideal – the less words the better! Normalise don't traumatise'</p> |

As a response to this guidance, and advice from Public Health England and The Department of Education, schools and settings **must** review their risk assessments, and make any adjustments to current practice to ensure that the safety and wellbeing of young people and adults is not compromised