



Department
for Education

Wraparound and holiday childcare – parents and childcare provider 'rights to request'

Government consultation

Launch date 07 December 2015

Respond by 29 February 2016

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Introduction

The aim of this consultation is to gather views from interested parties on the departmental advice on how maintained schools, academies and free schools should respond to:

- a. Parents' requests that the school that their child attends considers establishing wraparound and / or holiday childcare, and
- b. childcare providers' requests to use school facilities for wraparound and / or holiday provision at times when the school is not using them.

The departmental advice sets out the principles guiding how schools should respond to these requests and the steps they should take. This advice aims to avoid imposing unnecessary burdens on schools and maintains school autonomy, whilst ensuring schools understand the basis on which they should be responding constructively to requests for wraparound childcare.

We will monitor the levels of wraparound and holiday care available through schools to see if this departmental advice is sufficient, and if it is not we will consider further measures to improve take up.

Who this consultation is for

- Maintained schools
- Academies
- Free schools
- School governing bodies
- School unions
- Local authorities
- Parents
- Childcare providers including childminders

Issue date

The consultation was issued on 7 December 2015.

Enquiries

If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the consultation you can email:

wraparound.consultation@education.gsi.gov.uk

If your enquiry is related to the DfE e-consultation website or the consultation process in general, you can contact the DfE Ministerial and Public Communications Division by email: consultation.unit@education.gsi.gov.uk or by telephone: 0370 000 2288 or via the [DfE Contact us page](#).

Additional copies

Additional copies are available electronically and can be downloaded from [GOV.UK DfE consultations](#).

The response

The results of the consultation and the Department of Education's response will be [published on GOV.UK](#) in spring 2016.

About this consultation

The overall aim of this policy is to help parents to work, or work for longer, if they choose to do so, by making more quality childcare available during the week and school holidays.

The Government is proposing that parents should have the 'right to request' that their child's school should consider establishing wraparound and / or holiday childcare, and that childcare providers should have the 'right to request' the use of school facilities for such childcare at times when the school is not using them.

The accompanying advice sets out how maintained schools, academies and free schools should respond to these requests. We are seeking the views of those affected by the advice in order to ensure that the final departmental advice is helpful, practical and proportionate.

Background

All schools are encouraged to make their facilities available for use by the wider community. Many schools already do so, but they may be able to do more, especially in providing wraparound and holiday childcare. Schools are able to charge for the provision of extended and community services such as wraparound childcare and / or

holiday childcare if they wish. However, any profits that a school makes from providing these services must be reinvested in the service or in the school.¹

The evidence is clear that parents want wraparound and holiday childcare for school age children but we know that for many parents it can be difficult finding something suitable and affordable.² The *Parents' views and experiences of childcare survey* suggested that 62% of parents of children aged 5 or over, where at least one parent in the household was working or searching for work, required some form of wraparound childcare (most commonly after-school). The same survey showed that three in ten parents with a need for wraparound childcare were unable to find it.³

Parents trust schools and often find it convenient to use childcare that is local to their child's school. To help working parents access the childcare they need when they need it, the government wants schools to play a larger role in the childcare market. To this end the government expects schools to carry out the activities described in this advice when responding to parents' requests for establishing wraparound and / or holiday provision and provider requests to use school facilities for wraparound and / or holiday provision at times when the school is not using them.

These 'rights to request' should be seen alongside other measures already taken to make it easier for schools to provide wraparound childcare or holiday provision. These include:

- Removing the need for schools to follow advice from local authorities and the Secretary of State for Education when establishing community facilities;⁴
- Giving schools the power to determine the length of the school day;⁵
- Removing unnecessary after-school learning requirements for Reception aged children who are already being taught during the school day;⁶
- Revising before and after school childcare or holiday provision staffing levels so that providers have more discretion to determine how many staff are needed to ensure the safety and welfare of the children;⁷
- Making it easier for schools and providers to collaborate by allowing childcare providers to work in multiple locations with only one registration with Ofsted.⁸

¹ See section 27(3) of the Education Act 2002.

² http://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/sites/default/files/files/out_of_school_out_of_mind_withoutmap.pdf#overlay-context=out-school-out-mind

³ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/212589/DFE-RR266.pdf

⁴ Section 88 Children and Families Act 2014.

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/schools-given-freedom-from-bureaucratic-rules-to-have-control-over-school-day>

⁶ Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage, para 3.40 (March 2014)

⁷ Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage, para 3.40 (March 2014)

Proposals

Schools will take the lead in managing the 'rights to request' process and governing bodies will take the final decision about what action to take. In doing this schools must act reasonably in dealing with parental and childcare provider requests and should be transparent about the process that they choose to follow. For example, schools should be clear about deadlines, keep parents and providers informed at each stage, and give reasons for their decision as to whether they have approved or rejected requests.

We would like to hear your views on how this will work in practice, as set out in the accompanying draft advice to schools.

1. Is the process for parents lodging a request clear?

Paragraph 19 of the advice sets out what parents are expected to do to make a request for the provision of wraparound or holiday childcare. On receiving a request schools may require information from parents about the amount of wraparound or holiday childcare they estimate they will use. While it is left for schools themselves to decide what process works best, there is an expectation that they should be clear with parents about the steps they will take, timescales and any information necessary to help the school make a decision. If the advice is not clear the department is keen to understand what might be included to make it clearer.

2. Is the process for childcare providers lodging a request clear?

Paragraphs 34 and 35 of the advice sets out what childcare providers are expected to do to request the use of school facilities for wraparound or holiday childcare. While it is left for schools themselves to decide what process works best there is an expectation that they should be clear with childcare providers about timescales and any information necessary to make a decision. If the advice is not clear the department is keen to understand what might be included to make it clearer.

3. Is the advice on how a school should respond to a request from parents clear?

Paragraphs 21 and 22 of the advice set out the expectations of what schools should do to process a request from parents for wraparound or holiday childcare. While it is left for schools themselves to decide what process works best there is an expectation that they should be clear with parents about timescales and any information necessary to make a decision. If the advice is not clear the department is keen to understand what might be included to make it clearer for schools.

⁸ These measures, which apply in England only, are included in the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015 and will come into force on 1 January 2016.

4. Is the advice on how a school should respond to a request from a childcare provider clear?

Paragraph 36 of the advice set out the expectations of how schools should respond to a request from a childcare provider to use school facilities for wraparound or holiday childcare. While it is left for schools themselves to decide what process works best, there is an expectation that they should be clear with childcare providers about timescales and any information necessary to make a decision. If the advice is not clear the department is keen to understand what might be included to make it clearer.

5. Is the advice on setting a threshold helpful?

Paragraph 23 of the advice sets out the expectation that schools should establish a minimum threshold for the number of requests that will trigger formal consideration of the requests. This is to ensure that the actions that a school takes are based on an appropriate level of demand.

6. Other than those listed in the draft departmental advice, are there other circumstances in which it would be reasonable for a school to reject parental requests?

Paragraph 27 of the advice sets out three possible reasons why schools might reject parent requests. The department is keen to hear other suggestions of what else might be reasonable.

7. Other than those listed in the draft departmental advice, are there other circumstances in which it would be reasonable for schools to reject a provider request?

Paragraph 38 of the advice sets out three possible reasons why schools may reject childcare provider requests. The department is keen to hear other suggestions of what else might be reasonable.

8. Are the delivery options that a school should consider for delivering wraparound or holiday childcare clear?

Paragraphs 29 and 30 of the advice sets out the expectation that schools themselves should consider delivering the wraparound or holiday childcare directly themselves, or work with other schools to 'host' the childcare or work with private and voluntary childcare organisations to provide it. These options are designed to offer schools the maximum flexibility in the model of delivery.

9. Other than those listed in the draft departmental advice are there other factors that schools should consider in arriving at a decision about how to deliver wraparound or holiday childcare?

Paragraph 33 of the advice sets out a list of factors that schools may want to consider in arriving at a decision about how to deliver wraparound or holiday childcare. The department is keen to understand if there are additional factors that should be included.

10. Do you think that this advice would create a new burden for local authorities? If so, what is your evidence for saying so?

Paragraph 31 suggests that schools should discuss their plans with their local authority because of their statutory duty on the provision of childcare in the area. We will be exploring with the local government sector the implications of this advice, but the department would like to hear your views and receive evidence on any burdens for local authorities that it would create.

11. Do you agree that it would be helpful if the departmental advice on how to respond to 'right to request' included links to websites with information and advice about how to provide and commission wraparound and holiday childcare?

A major achievement over the past few years has been the long term growth of wraparound and holiday childcare. This has led to a wealth of innovative practice and knowledge which we are keen to draw together. Please include examples of websites or other sources of information and help in the comment box.

12. Do you have any other comments on the draft departmental advice to schools?

We look forward to hearing your views on the proposals in the draft advice document. Finally it would be helpful to know whether you have any other comments on the proposals set out in this consultation.

Respond online

To help us analyse the responses please use the online system wherever possible. Visit www.education.gov.uk/consultations to submit your response.

Other ways to respond

If for exceptional reasons, you are unable to use the online system, for example because you use specialist accessibility software that is not compatible with the system, you may download a word document version of the form and email it or post it.

By email

wraparound.consultation@education.gsi.gov.uk

By post

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Deadline

The consultation closes on 29 February 2016.



Department
for Education

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