

### **Flexibility to Fund Partial Wraparound Places**

The creation of full wraparound places (8am – 6pm, Monday to Friday, during term time) remains DfE's priority for the wraparound childcare programme, but at the end of July 2025, DfE announced greater flexibility for LAs to fund places where provision of full wraparound places has been tested and is not currently feasible. LAs are now able to offer funding to partial wraparound places that do not yet meet the DfE's expectations of the full wraparound offer for parents.

The flexibility recognises that for some schools the full wraparound offer will not be necessary to meet parental demand, so with the aim of seeing some provision for parents, DfE have extended their criteria to include provision for partial places.

Local authorities are now able to fund partial places in a way that supports the ethos of the wraparound programme, specifically:

- that funding is used to create / expand provision that will meet the needs of local families, using evidence of demand
- that funding increases availability of places – as with full wraparound places, this could be through creating new provision, expanding hours of existing provision or expanding the number of places at existing partial provision
- that funded places are consistently available throughout term-time, so that parents can rely on childcare for work
- that funding for partial places is not at the expense of agreed or planned funding for full wraparound places
- that schools / providers are encouraged to see partial places as a bridge to potential full places in future
- families should have access to childcare *at least* three days per week – though the number of places available on different days may vary
- families should have access to childcare before and after school; before school provision should be available for at least 30 minutes and after-school provision should finish no earlier than 90 mins after the school day. There may be a different number of places available before and after school. As now, this childcare could be available with different childcare providers.

#### **Examples:**

Examples of partial places that could be funded:

- Wraparound is available until 6pm on Monday to Thursday, and on Fridays operates shorter hours (i.e. less than 90 mins after school) or no provision due to local working patterns.
- School has a free breakfast club 30 mins before school (including Free Breakfast Club early adopters) and there is an after-school club that runs for at least 90 minutes.
- Wraparound is available before and after school Monday to Friday, with the after-school club closing or operating at reduced capacity from 5pm (school finishes at 3.30pm) as this meets local parental needs.
- A childminder works part-time and offers wraparound three days per week.