

National Wraparound Childcare Programme: Information for maintained schools and academy trusts

The National Wraparound Childcare Programme supports the government's ambition for all parents and carers of primary school-aged children who need term time, childcare during the hours of 8am to 6pm, to be able to access it in their local area by September 2026. Schools are central to the delivery of the programme as they operate at the heart of the community, understand the needs of local families, and are usually the first port of call for parents for wraparound childcare. The expectation is that most parents can access childcare through provision on a school site (either provided directly by the school or by an external provider). Where there is a strong rationale for this not to be the case, the minimum expectation is for schools to work collaboratively with their local authority to ensure parents are, at a minimum, signposted to appropriate provision.

Each local authority has received funding to support the costs associated with place creation and expansion, for example, staffing, equipment and resources. This removes the financial risk for schools when starting or expanding their provision. Improved access to employment and education opportunities benefits parents, and schools' and children benefit from a softer start to the school day.

This series of recordings support schools to understand and deliver the National Wraparound Childcare Programme and is relevant to:

- Maintained school and trust leaders
- School business / finance professionals
- Governing boards in maintained schools
- Academy trust boards and local governing bodies
- Practitioners and teaching staff

The content is split into seven sections. Each section has a short recording to watch and there is also an accompanying checklist which can be used to track which sessions have been accessed as well as signpost to additional resources:

Section One: Programme Overview and Roles of Schools and Trusts

Section Two: Delivery Models

Section Three: Assessing Demand

Section Four: Overcoming Common Challenges

Section Five: A Guide for Schools Running Provision

Section Six: Monitoring and Maintaining Provision

Section Seven: Tips When Working with the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) Sector

All recorded sessions are hosted on the Childcare Works HUB for schools and providers



The Childcare Works HUB has been developed to support group childcare providers, childminders and schools in the expansion of the early years entitlements and implementation of the wraparound programme. It is designed to be a one-stop shop hosting a wealth of resources, designed by our specialist team around the themes that you have told us are important in your day-to-day business management and business planning for the expansion. On the HUB you will find videos, tools, documents, links, helpful suggestions, and training, including real life case studies, and the voice of the provider.

Resources are continually being developed; new content is being shared on the HUB as it becomes available. You can access the HUB by visiting <https://childcareworks.org.uk/hub-for-providers> or using the QR code above.

Determining The Role of Your School in the National Wraparound Childcare Programme

[Information to support maintained schools and academy trusts when implementing the national wraparound childcare programme](#)

Session 1a: Programme Overview

This short recording introduces the National Wraparound Childcare Programme including:

- Programme aims and objectives
- An overview of programme and the funding available, and why it is needed
- How wraparound fits with what schools currently offer
- Wraparound childcare benefits to schools and children and their families
- Case study: Supporting working parents and vulnerable children

Session 1b: The Roles and Schools and Trusts

The role of Schools and Trusts in the delivery of wraparound childcare is the focus of this session.

- Outline the role of schools and trusts
- Right to Request legislation
- Helping you to determine your role
- Support available from your local authority
- How funding can be used

Session 2: Delivery Models

Schools can deliver provision themselves, work with external providers and childminders, or develop cluster or hub models.

- This session introduces different models of delivery and highlights strengths and weaknesses of each model
- Indicates when each model might be most effective and/or practical solution.
- Discusses the interaction between wraparound and existing provision and ideas shared regarding how they work together

Session 3: Is There Demand?

This session will provide you with hints and tips to assess potential demand within your school.

Session 4: Overcoming Common Challenges

Recruitment, lack of space, transport, insufficient time, parental affordability and inadequate demand are commonly cited as challenges. This session will discuss each of these challenges in turn and provide insight into how they can be overcome.

- Case studies from other schools
- Introducing Childcare Choices to support affordability
- Reasonable justification to not provide wraparound childcare

By this session you should have a strong understanding of the programme, how it can be delivered and how to assess demand in your school. You will understand the limitations of relying on reasonable justification and will have ideas about how to address common challenges. You will also be familiar with the role your local authority can play in helping to support you through this process.

The next section is a series of practical guides to support schools in setting up provision or guidance in working with the PVI market.

Guides for Schools and Trusts Setting Up Provision

Section 5: Introduction

This short recording outlines the different guides available to schools and trusts who are setting up their own provision.

Session 5a: Vision and Aims

By determining vision and aims early in the process, schools and trusts will have a clear view of what their provision will offer. This session highlights key points for consideration.

- Determine expectations
- Consider what you want to achieve by delivering wraparound provision and how it will interact with existing provision
- Meeting the diverse needs of families
- Introducing the concept of high-quality, safe, inclusive and accessible provision
- Impact on school finances

Session 5b: Staffing, Training and Ratios

This session introduces the principles of staffing, training and ratios.

- Sources of staff and where you might recruit from
- Determining the right ratio for your setting
- Training and qualification considerations
- Introducing safeguarding requirements

Session 5c: Delivery Requirements

There are minimum requirements which must be met, and this session introduces these requirements and signposts to useful sources of further information.

- Ofsted registration and when it is required
- Safeguarding
- Health and safety
- Inclusive provision
- Travel to setting

5d: Food

The requirements and best practice when serving food to children. This session also introduces the new Breakfast Club programme and outlines how it will work in conjunction with wraparound.

- Nutritious food
- Food responsibilities
- Best practice
- Breakfast clubs and wraparound

5e: Operational Plan

Managing the provision within your school or trust team.

- Key roles and responsibilities
- Day-to-day management
- Budgets and finances

5f: Insurance

This short session highlights steps to take to ensure you are adequately insured and provides links and tips to support schools in arranging insurance cover.

5g: Quality

Creating provision where parents feel confident leaving their children and where children want to attend.

- Creating welcoming environments with suitable resources
- Professional well-trained team
- Delivering child-centred provision
- Being safe and secure

5h: Affordable Charging Models

Introducing tools, strategies and resources to help your school or trust deliver affordable childcare.

- Guidance for schools when charging to activities
- Cost considerations and fee setting
- Government initiatives to support affordable childcare

5i: Working in Partnership with Providers

An introduction for schools and trusts who would like onsite provision and wish to work with an external delivery partner.

- Tips to support choosing a partner
- Creating a strong working environment
- School responsibilities in maintaining safety and quality

The Monitoring of Provision Once it is Operating

Session Six: Monitoring and Maintaining Provision

Strategies to review demand to ensure provision is meeting current and future parent's needs.

- Review demand
- Consider future demand
- Financially sustainable provision

Working with Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) Providers

Session Seven: Tips When Working with PVI

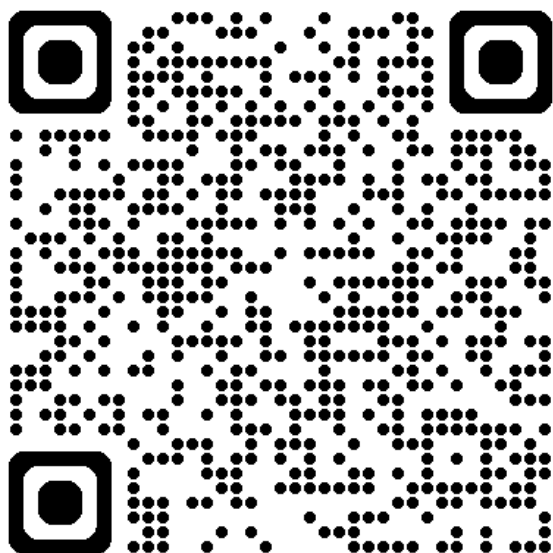
This session is for schools and trusts who have started the process of selecting their provider; it gives hints and tips to support a strong, collaborative working relationship.

- The role of schools and trusts when working with PVI
- Building strong communication into your processes
- An understanding of provider expectations and how these might be different from the schools
- How schools can ensure quality remains consistently high

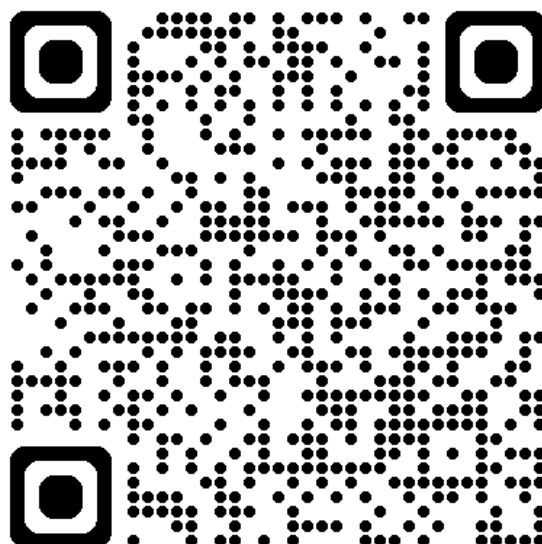
The Childcare Works HUB hosts two online toolkits to support maintained schools and academy trusts with the development of early years services and wraparound childcare.

It can be time consuming and difficult to find what is relevant and useful when you are busy. There is a wealth of information already available online. Navigating your way to the information that is current, relevant and appropriate can be a challenge. So, Childcare Works have done the searching and collating for you. Experts have curated each toolkit to bring a selection of sector specific and general information, tools, templates, support and guidance into one easy to use resource. The toolkits complement and signpost to information already available on the HUB, direct you to relevant Government guidance and resources, connect you to sector organisations, as well as information from banks, and other expert advice and support to assist you to manage your business and promote your setting. They include links to resources, templates tools, blogs and videos to support a variety of preferred learning styles.

Please feel free to explore the toolkits.



Early Years Toolkit



Wraparound Toolkit