AfPE Curriculum & Extra Physical Education Covid-19 Statement

AfPE are aware that the latest Government guidance document; ‘returning to schools’, 28th August has raised many questions for workforce colleagues in PE & Physical Activity.

Therefore, they have produced a statement to support staff in our schools. Please see below some of the key points and AfPEs suggested approach. They are keen to stress that within the educational context, gov.uk is the **only** source for guidance documents and should be checked regularly. Please click here to see the full Gov UK document.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirusoutbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

PE in the curriculum

Gov UK: Schools must do everything possible to minimise contacts and mixing while delivering a broad and balanced curriculum.

* The decision regarding what constitutes a broad and balanced curriculum in your own school will be taken by your school leadership team
* AFPE advocates that a broad & balanced PE curriculum is taught including: dance, gymnastics, games, athletics, outdoor and adventurous activities and swimming.
* Physical activities from recognised sports can be taught through the physical domain and creative approaches needed to ensure they remain on the curriculum.
* Pupils should be kept in consistent groups
* PE equipment should be thoroughly cleaned between each use by different groups/bubbles.

PE & Sport beyond the curriculum

The DfE guidance says “Both the approaches of separating groups and maintaining distance are not ‘all-or-nothing’ options and will still bring benefits even if implemented partially. Some schools may keep children in their class groups for the majority of the classroom time, but also allow mixing into wider groups for specialist teaching, wraparound care and transport.”

* AFPE understands that this means schools can choose to make an exception to their arrangements in order to hold fixtures in sports where NGBs have approved guidance which permits such fixtures.
* However, there is no obligation to engage in fixtures
* Schools should carry out a thorough risk assessment considering the implications should there be a positive Covid case.
* They must also access whether a fixture can be practically and safely carried out in the context of other considerations, such as restrictions on transport.
* afPE’s position at the current time is that school fixtures should be **avoided**, as this will involve contact across schools, and increase the opportunities for virus transmission.
* It is the responsibility of every school to minimise risks and therefore avoid any activities/sports that increase the risk.
* Parents have every right to expect their children to be as safe as possible whilst in school.
* Community activities are different because parents/carers choose to let their children take part.

**Curriculum School Swimming**

Swimming lessons are a compulsory part of the national curriculum.

Gov.UK & AFPE have worked with Swim England to create a guidance document that:

* Shows how swimming lessons can be held safely
* Gives teachers the necessary information about booking procedures plus what to do before leaving the school, on arrival at the pool and in the water itself.

<https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/pool-return-guidance-documents>

Highlighted in the guidance are the continued requirements for social distancing and enhanced hygiene regimes, along with guidelines on how this will impact on the different experience the pool user will have.

**Transport**

Updated guidance around transportation has been produced and should be used to develop your own policy.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transport-to-school-and-other-places-ofeducation-autumn-term-2020/transport-to-school-and-other-places-of-education-autumnterm-2020>

**Risk Assessments**

* All risk assessments must be amended on an ongoing basis in order to reflect each school’s specific controls;
* They should also be updated whenever there is a significant change in government guidance.
* In ever-changing times, this is likely to necessitate more regular reviews than may previously have been undertaken and it is crucial that dynamic risk assessments must be carried out.

Please note that the ‘employer’ and the DfE guidance should be followed for Physical Education, School Sport, and Physical Activity, in an educational context.

AfPE will continue to provide updates by posting information on their website www.afpe.org.uk.