



# EXTENDED SCHOOLS

extra support for you and  
your children



department for  
children, schools and families

**Over the past few years, schools have been extending the services they offer. Many now open up their facilities outside school hours for pupils, their families and the local community. So far, more than half of all schools in the country offer some 'extended services' for the pupils, families and communities they serve. By 2010, the Government wants that to be all schools.**

## What's on offer?

What's on offer depends on what local people want. If it can't be offered on site, it can usually be sourced nearby. For example, typically, schools are offering:

### For children:

- **affordable Ofsted-registered childcare** from 8am until 6pm, 48 weeks a year (if it's a primary school) – at school or with a nearby nursery, pre-school, playgroup or childminder. This could include:

- **breakfast clubs** – a healthy meal, starting the day ready to learn
- **after-school clubs** – to unwind and socialise in a safe place
- **homework clubs and study support** – a quiet place to work, where pupils get the support they need
- **holiday clubs** – run by local organisations, where children can try their hand at, say, canoeing, cycling, or an adventure course



- **activities for children** up to the age of 14 (or 16 if they have special educational needs or a disability) – such as sports, computers, music, drama, art, model making and cooking

### For adults:

- **family learning** – where children can learn with parents
- **information sessions for parents** – when children move on to primary or secondary school
- **parenting and family support** – for anyone who wants it
- **swift and easy access to a wide range of specialist services** – so problems are resolved quickly, with

schools linked to speech and language therapy, psychologists, social care, youth workers, housing, police, careers advice or short-term breaks for parents of disabled children

• **facilities for community use**

– like a sports hall, swimming pool, computers, or adult classes in, say, English or maths, holiday French or yoga

Check with your school to find out what’s available near you, visit [www.schoolsfinder.direct.gov.uk](http://www.schoolsfinder.direct.gov.uk) or call **0800 2 346 346**

**How does it work?**

Schools consult pupils, parents and the local community about the kinds of activities they want to see. They also work with their local authority and a whole host of organisations – other schools, colleges, private companies, individuals and voluntary groups – so that between them they can provide what local people want.



For example, in some schools:

- If childcare was an issue for local working parents, it’s now provided on or off the school site by a local nursery or playgroup.
- If pupils had nowhere to do their homework, a homework club has been set up at school.
- A drama or film club has been set up in response to requests from children.
- A pupil counselling service offers weekly sessions.
- Parents run a sports club for dads and children at the weekend.
- Citizens Advice comes along and advises parents on budgeting.
- ‘Keep up with the Kids’ sessions are run for parents who want to help their children with school work.

- A local college runs courses at the school in the evenings, for adults to brush up their English and maths, or learn English if it's not their first language.
- The school's computers are used out of hours so parents can get to grips with new technology and help their children at home.
- Local clubs use the school's sports facilities so that youngsters can train for the 2012 Olympics.

It's about making the most of the opportunities a school site can offer and combining that with the services – and talent – that's already around locally.



### **How much does it cost?**

Some services and activities are free, such as:

- most education for children outside school hours
- specialist services such as healthcare and social care

Those you usually need to pay for include:

- childcare during school term and in the holidays
- some clubs and activities – like music clubs and museum visits

Schools will always try to keep costs down, and charges will vary according to the activity. If you're on a low income you may be able to get some extra help with paying for childcare, such as the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit.

**Call the Tax Credits Helpline on 0845 300 3900 or visit [www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits)**



## Who wins?

It's still early days, but research tells us that children tend to do better when schools have extended their services:

- Concentration, behaviour and achievement levels can improve.
- Being part of a club or a team, with interesting activities before or after school, can help motivation, self-confidence and self-esteem.
- Children's behaviour and attitude to learning can improve.

Extended services can also help communities:

- Education, health and social care on the same site makes it easier for local people to get the support they need.
- Family learning and 'Keep up with the Kids' sessions can strengthen bonds between teenagers and parents.
- Coupled with advice on jobs and training, easy access to adult learning can help people find a job they want.
- Swift and easy access to support and services makes sure any problems get sorted out quickly to make a difference to children and families.

## Creating a welcoming environment for visitors

Chafford Hundred Campus provides all-age education, from nursery through to secondary, for a newly built housing estate. The school's central 'street' offers a welcoming place for local residents to learn and socialise. There's a local childcare provider on site and the cyber café hosts a breakfast club. There's healthy after-school provision, including sports, and local clubs make full use of the sports facilities. Pupils and locals use the community library and there are adult education opportunities in art, sport, dance and more. The school can even cater for weddings and local events.



'Up to 50 young people come to our youth club every evening. They had nowhere to go before. It's definitely had a positive effect, both on the people who come and the community. The young people respect it - it's their club.'

**Stella**, Area Youth Worker





'Because the breakfast and after-school clubs are attached to the school, I can drop the children off any time from 7.30am, which is excellent. The community club is on the same premises. They run all sorts of activities for adults and children, including karate, salsa dancing, accountancy classes and bingo. It's fab. It's lovely. It really brings the school into the community and brings us together as families.'

**Hayley**, Mum

'Before, I really didn't have much focus. Now, thanks to the adult learning classes, I have a full-time job and I'm gaining qualifications left, right and centre! It's really helped me with how I relate to my own children too.'

**Charlie**, Dad



## Get involved

You can influence what happens at your child's school. By telling them what services you'd like to see, you can really make a difference to what's available for you, your children and your community.

You can also get involved yourself. At some schools, parents organise and run after-school activities and trips, often on a voluntary basis.

Go along, take a look and have your say!

To find out more, ask your school, visit

**[www.schoolfinder.direct.gov.uk](http://www.schoolfinder.direct.gov.uk)** or call **0800 2 346 346**



ISBN 978-1-84775-250-5

You can download this publication or order copies online at [www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications)

Search using the ref: DCSF-00786-2008

Copies of this publication can also be obtained from:

### Department for Children, Schools and Families Publications

PO Box 5050  
Sherwood Park, Annesley  
Nottingham NG15 0DJ  
Tel 0845 60 222 60  
Fax 0845 60 333 60  
Textphone 0845 60 555 60

Please quote ref 00786-2008LEF-EN  
PPCOI/D21(21261)1008/65

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Published by the Department for Children,  
Schools and Families

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