



What is 'The Right to Request'?

The Department for Education's [Right to Request](#) publication (2016) has been produced to help maintained schools and academies (including free schools) understand how to respond to:

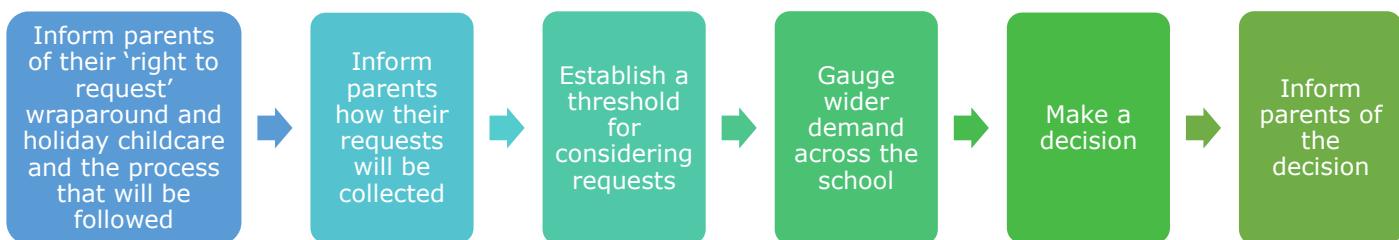
- parents' requests that the school that their child attends consider establishing wraparound and/or holiday childcare;
- childcare providers' requests to use school facilities for wraparound and/or holiday provision at times when the school is not using them.

This guidance aims to promote school autonomy and avoid imposing unnecessary administration burdens on schools, whilst ensuring that schools understand the basis on which they should be responding constructively to requests for wraparound childcare.

These 'rights to request' refer to children from Reception up to the end of Key Stage 3 (Year 9). Where there is demand, schools and providers may also want to consider wraparound / holiday childcare for the under-five's or for Year 10 and above. A parent's 'right to request' refers only to the school that their child attends.

Schools take the lead in managing the 'rights to request' process and the final decision about what action to take. For example, schools should be clear about timescales, keep parents and providers informed at each stage, and give reasons for their approval or rejection of requests.

In principle, schools should transition through the following stages during the process for a parental request:



The countywide parent childcare survey carried out in September 2022 identified that one of the main challenges for families is the availability of wrap around care for school age children.

With this in mind, if you would like to explore the demand for wrap around care at your school, [further information and guidance is available online](#). Here, you will find step by step guidance for schools considering early years and childcare provision on site, as well as a guide to carrying out meaningful consultations to assess need and demand.

On the same page, you will also find a support request form. Once you have completed this form, a member of the Early Years and Childcare team will contact you to support you through the process.