

Headteachers' Update

The Daily 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

Thank You

On behalf of Northumberland County Council and the Education and Skills Service, I would like to thank all headteachers and their staff for everything that you have done over the last fortnight to maintain places for vulnerable children and those from key workers. I know that some of you have faced uphill battles, conflict, misunderstandings and, most probably, moments of doubt and panic, but to keep going and to keep your settings open has been a phenomenal achievement. I would normally be wishing you a pleasant and restful Easter break, but I know that the majority of you will be open again on Monday for the 'new normal', as one headteacher described it yesterday. Both your resilience and fortitude never fails to amaze me. Thank you.

Colleagues

We have two headteacher colleagues leaving us today. Don't some people pick their days - who could have seen this coming when those decisions were first made? I would like to wish Hazel Scott from Guide Post Ringway and Fiona Conley from Hexham St Mary's the very best of luck with whatever they do next and to thank them both for everything they have done for children and families in Northumberland.

Vulnerable Learners

The monitoring and tracking of vulnerable children is of concern to us all. For children open to social care, the point of contact for schools should be the named social worker. However, in line with the NCC Children Missing Education guidance, schools are advised that if they are expecting a child to attend school who doesn't and the child does not have a named social worker, you should contact the Education Welfare Service on 01670 622800 or email: educationwelfare@northumberland.gov.uk

Keeping Children Safe in Education Update

KCSIE has been updated to reflect the recently issued guidance on the coronavirus. The updated document can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/835733/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2019.pdf

This guidance applies to all schools and is for headteachers, teachers and staff, governing bodies, proprietors and management committees.

It sets out the legal duties you must follow to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people under the age of 18 in schools and colleges.

All school and college staff should read Part 1 of this guidance. Part 1 of the guidance is also available as a standalone document.

Safe to Learn

During the school closure period, a *Safe to Learn* bulletin will be published every Friday. Please remember to share with all staff and your governing body. As next week is the Easter weekend, you can expect issue 32 on Thursday 9th April 2020

GCSE/ A Level grading

OfQUAL have announced how external examination grades will be calculated for this academic year. The guidance is available [here](#). The Data Team will now begin work to see how they can support schools in reaching accurate centre assessment grades.

New Guidance on Newly Qualified Teachers

This guidance was published yesterday and can be found below:

The local authority has produced a briefing note to reassure NQTs, their mentors and headteachers as to how the induction process will operate going forwards. The briefing note is [here](#). Please contact [Dave Cookson](#) or [Carol Green](#) if you have any queries.

Early Years Funding Update

As directed by central government advice, we plan to allocate all the Early Years Block funding to schools and providers as fairly as possible in the summer term. Due to the current circumstance, it looks like the usual summer census will not be possible. To solve this issue, the first step will be to allocate funding based on your spring term census. There will then be a reconciliation process in June where any school who believes they have suffered significant under-funding by this model can provide information to support a possible additional payment.

First Aid Certificates

We have been made aware that some First Aid Certificates are due to expire soon and of the potential gap if qualified staff are absent and new staff cannot be trained. The HSE have confirmed that a three (3) month extension for those certificates expiring after the 16th March 2020 is now in place. If you have any questions about this, please contact the Health and Safety Team.

https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/first-aid-certificate-coronavirus.htm?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=coronavirus&utm_term=first-aid-2&utm_content=digest-2-apr-20

Bereavement Support

Our Educational Psychology Service is currently underway with preparing a set of resources to support bereaved children. In the coming weeks, unfortunately, some schools may find themselves in

a position of providing care to children who are experiencing loss, and we hope that the resource will enable you to find and/or provide help for them. When the resource is ready, details will be provided in the 5 O'Clock Briefing. We are hoping to be able to do this by the middle of next week. In the meantime, for any advice around this, please contact the Educational Psychology Team directly.

Home Working Resource

We know that you have developed and shared a huge amount of work for your pupils to engage in at home. To supplement your offer, here is an additional link, put together by the School Improvement Team. It covers Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 and it should be relatively easy for parents and children to navigate. The link will update automatically as we add further resources. If you have a resource that you think would be a good addition, please share it with Claire Williams. We will name tag the school as thanks. Share the link as you see fit. It will also be hosted on your 360 platforms.

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1nHmWBgiJPYRPaboL1KfGpYxylltECny7PhemECNea3E/presentation?usp=sharing>

The 5 O'Clock Update

A reminder that the 5pm update is available on the Northumberland Education website, as are previous editions.