

# Headteachers' Update

## The Daily 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

### An Urgent Request for 3D Printers

If any schools have, or have access to, a 3D printer and might be able to produce visors for the NHS, please contact Dave Cookson as soon as possible [Dave.Cookson@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Dave.Cookson@northumberland.gov.uk) or 07342 059770 / 01670 622717.

### Updates to DfE Guidance

#### [Guidance for Schools About Temporarily Closing](#)

Added information about safeguarding. Updated information about workforce and critical workers.

#### [Coronavirus: Cancellation of GCSEs, AS and A Levels in 2020.](#)

Updated 'Coronavirus (COVID-19): cancellation of GCSEs, AS and A levels in 2020' to reflect new guidance from Ofqual.

### Increased Fraud Risk During Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

Periods of instability, such as during the coronavirus pandemic, bring an increased risk of fraud.

Fraudsters will actively exploit these difficult times and will target vulnerable areas for financial gain. ActionFraud reported a 400% increase in reports of coronavirus related fraud in March 2020. The reported frauds are varied and include:

- charity fraud
- online shopping fraud
- phishing emails

Further information is available on the [ActionFraud website](#).

Periods of instability lead to increased pressure, which in turn may lead to reduced internal controls and management oversight, making organisations more vulnerable to fraud risks.

During these periods staff wanting to be helpful and flexible when dealing with suppliers can be more susceptible to targeted attacks from fraudsters, particularly around changes to payment details.

Remember, fraudsters can be very convincing, they are used to exploiting organisations and will have prepared thoroughly.

Organisations should continue to follow all business processes and procedures designed to protect them from fraud. Below are some key actions for all organisations during the coronavirus pandemic and other periods of instability:

1. Maintain effective governance and financial management and oversight. Periodically remind staff that, despite the instability, the organisation continues to implement, and require compliance with, internal controls.
2. Maintain strong internal controls and retain and implement clear policies and procedures. Provide further training on these policies and procedures where required.
3. Maintain and promote strong anti-fraud controls. Review internal control risk assessments and fraud risk assessments. Ensure that staff know how to report suspected fraud.
4. Undertake internal audits to monitor internal controls and segregation of duties to ensure they are operating effectively.

## Cybercrime

Cybercrime is an increasing risk to all businesses, including the education sector, and is a particularly vulnerable area in the current situation. The government has published a [guide on cybercrime and cyber security](#) to help raise education providers' awareness.

Further guidance on [reducing fraud risks](#) is also available (this was produced for academies but maybe helpful to all organisations).

## Scam alerts

We have been informed that some parents have received an email stating the following: 'As schools will be closing, if you're entitled to free school meals, please send your bank details and we'll make sure you're supported'.

We can confirm that this is a scam email and is not official. We urge parents that if you receive any emails like this, please do not respond, and delete it immediately.

## Child Friendly Coronavirus Information

There are a range of child friendly resources to support and inform children and young people about Coronavirus. Please see below examples for your information and use:

From the Office of the Children's Commissioner:  
<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/childrens-guide-to-coronavirus/>

'Underdogg and the Indoor Adventure' comic from one of the Module and Learning Set Providers in the Accelerator Site Schools project:  
<http://www.ashleyprimary.co.uk/underdogg-and-the-indoor-adventure/>.

## Bereavement Resources Padlet

[https://nlandeducation.padlet.org/gill\\_finch2/managing\\_bereavements](https://nlandeducation.padlet.org/gill_finch2/managing_bereavements)

Unfortunately, in the coming weeks and months, our communities may be experiencing more bereavements than usual.

A padlet has been put together to provide useful information about bereavement in one place. While most children and adults will not need additional professional support to manage a bereavement there are unusual features of the current situation which may impact on how we are all able to manage. These factors include:

1. **School / Work closures:** children and adults will not have easy access to their usual support networks.
2. **Suddenness:** People may sicken and die quite rapidly; there may be little time to adjust to a rapidly changing future.
3. **Distance:** People won't be able to spend time with their dying relative, won't be able to touch or hug them or even be in the same room.
4. **Support structures:** The current disruption of normal routine will mean fewer places in which to switch off and focus on something else: for example, school, sports club, social events, etc.
5. **Anger:** People may feel angry about things they perceive to have contributed to this death: people being slow to self-isolate, lack of ventilators etc.
6. **Anxiety:** Worry about other family members dying after any death is expected, in the present situation, such anxiety is sharper and less easy to soothe.
7. **Constantly reminded:** It will be hard to avoid hearing other stories of people affected by coronavirus.
8. **Absence of rituals:** With heavy restrictions on funerals, there will be less chance to 'say goodbye' in a formal sense.

## Thank you message from the Secretary of State for Education

Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education, has recorded a message for staff across the education and children's social care sectors thanking you for all the exceptional work that you are doing during this challenging time.

The message can be viewed here:  
<https://twitter.com/GavinWilliamson/status/1245763274496507904>