

Headteachers' Update

The Daily 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

COVID19: Financial Support Available to Schools

Yesterday, I circulated the DfE guidance on the COVID19: Financial Support Available to Schools. Full details are available [here](#), but in summary:

Schools will be able to claim for costs of additional cleaning; increased premises costs needed to keep schools open during school holidays; and free school meals for children not attending school, where these costs aren't covered by the national voucher scheme. If schools have other exceptional costs that aren't covered by this list they should contact

DfE.CoronavirusHelpline@education.gov.uk.

The DfE are asking schools to make necessary payments from their existing budgets and record additional costs so you can make claims when the detailed claims process launches in June. Although schools will need to keep a record, the DfE say they will make sure that the claims process is as simple as possible.

Schools can claim up to the below amounts. These have been set at a level that the DfE think is sufficiently high that they expect very few schools to need to claim this much. There will also be an opportunity to claim beyond these limits in the few exceptional cases that may arise:

- Mainstream schools
 - 250 pupils or fewer -£25,000
 - 251 to 500 pupils - £30,000
 - 501 to 1000 pupils - £50,000
 - Over 1000 pupils - £75,000
- Special schools and alternative provision
 - All schools - £50,000

NCC Padlets: Materials and Resources to Support Children and Young People

Please remember that our staff have been building up resources for schools to use and have been placing them on padlets for easy access. These padlets will be constantly being added to, so it is worth checking regularly. The padlets are also located on homepage of the public-facing NCC website for ease of access

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Home.aspx>.

SEN Support Services:

[COVID 19 - Materials to Support Children and Young People collated by Psychological Services](#)

[COVID 19 - Resources to Help Schools with Children and Young People dealing with Bereavement](#)

Early Years: EY Home Learning link - [Northumberland Early Years Home Learning](#)

Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2: KS1 and KS2 Home Learning Link - [here](#)

Process to Check on the Welfare of Children During Covid 19 Pandemic

Find a link below to a guidance document for schools that supports the process of checking on the welfare of children and young people during the COVID19 pandemic. The Safeguarding Team has consulted with colleagues from across Children's Services to produce this document. It will be sent directly to all DSLs with Thursday's Safe to Learn. In order to ensure consistency of practice across all schools, it is also been distributed to staff in Foundry House, who have received a number of calls from schools seeking clarification when they have concerns about children

<http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Process-to-check-on-the-welfare-of-children-during-Covid-19-pandemic-1.pdf>

FSM Voucher Scheme

Following issues raised by schools yesterday regarding the National FSM Voucher Scheme website and ordering system, we have been in contact with the DfE requesting their support in resolving these issues. We are aware of the issues that schools are having and we are also aware that Edenred, the providers, are trying to catch-up with the demand. Wherever we can, we will try to help and, as from today, we have assigned a member of staff, Ross Downey, to deal with FSM Voucher issues. Ross can be contacted at Ross.Downey@northumberland.gov.uk.

Northumberland County Council Staff Supporting Schools

We have a list of Education and Skills staff that we are able to deploy to help support schools during this period. Many are SEN specialists, and all are willing to help you to keep your setting open and running. We have already received some requests and have been able to respond to them quickly. If you would like an extra pair of hands, specialist or otherwise, please contact **Simon Baxter on 07870 365983**.

We now have a number of NCC Staff deployed in schools and the feedback is that it is working well. If we can support you with staff, please call. NCC staff will also be available throughout the Easter holiday period including the two Bank Holidays.

Public Health England Poster

Public Health England have published a useful poster (you may already have it) that highlights the national guidance on staying healthy throughout the pandemic period:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876220/COVID19_Guidance_Education.pdf.

DfE Guidance Updates

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): school closures](#)

What schools will need to do during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Changes made: Updated sections on funding, holidays and practicalities.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Closure of educational settings: information for parents and carers](#)

Information for parents and carers about the closure of schools and other educational settings following the outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Changes made: Information added about the Easter holidays and information about exams, and resources and support has been updated.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance for educational settings](#)

Guidance for schools and other educational settings about the novel coronavirus, COVID-19.

Changes made: Updated guidance to reflect the announcement on school closures.

What Has Been Happening at Your School in the Last Three Weeks?

We would love to celebrate some of the great work that you have been doing in your schools and settings during the closure period and ways in which you have supported your pupils at home.

We will then work with our Communications Team here at the council to share the news about the great things that you have been doing.

If you have any stories, photos, videos, resources (anything really!) that you would like to share with us, please send them to Dave Cookson dave.cookson@northumberland.gov.uk or contact Dave on **07342 059770** or **01670 622717**

Please make sure that you have parental consent where appropriate and especially for any photograph.