

# Headteachers' Update

## The Daily 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

### Yesterday, Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020

The first day of the new term saw the number of children attending schools and settings increase to the third highest since we started to collect this information on 23 March. Most importantly, we had the highest number of vulnerable learners attending so far since the school closure period began. In total, 142 schools and Alternative Providers were open yesterday and 41 schools and AP providers were closed.

1068 children attended, which included 740 key worker children, 234 that schools have identified as vulnerable, and 94 with an EHCP, which is also a rapidly increasing number.

### Mentally Healthy Schools (Anna Freud Centre)

The Anna Freud Centre has published a range of resources to help support the mental health of children, young people, school and college staff and parents. The third toolkit in the series has just been released. You can find them here:

Coronavirus: Resources for mental health and wellbeing

Toolkit 1: Videos to provide practical guidance and tips to schools, parents and carers about coronavirus (COVID-19) and mental health activities to ease anxiety that can be done at school or at home and other helpful advice, helplines and resources for adults and children.

<https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/resource/s/coronavirus-resources-for-mental-health-and-wellbeing-toolkit-1/>

Toolkit 2: Resources for Staff Wellbeing  
Resources to help children with SEND and responding to the unique challenges that may arise for vulnerable children

<https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/resource/s/coronavirus-resources-for-mental-health-and-wellbeing-toolkit-2/>

Toolkit 3: Resources for School Staff, as well as parents, to use with vulnerable children or children with SEND, a resource from Stonewall for the LGBTQ+ community, and a resource pack for staff wellbeing and practical activities for adults and children to help stay mentally well during this time.

<https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/resource/s/coronavirus-resources-for-mental-health-and-wellbeing-toolkit-3/>

### Padlet Resources

Please note that new resources are being added all the time. For example, the Anna Freud Centre resources listed above have been added to the '[Resources for Children and Families to Better Understand Coronavirus](#)' padlet.

### Governing Body Information (National Governance Association)

The National Governance Association (NGA) has produced a free safeguarding information sheet for governing boards covering safeguarding guidance during COVID19, revising the child protection policy to reflect new arrangements and advice about what governing boards should do. You can find the information sheet here:

<https://www.nga.org.uk/getmedia/661645b5-80ff-44a0-8fed-13bd2cf3afdc/NGA-Coronavirus-Guidance-Issue-4-19-March-2020.pdf>

The NGA's full range of COVID-19 resources for governing boards can be found here:  
<https://www.nga.org.uk/Knowledge-Centre/Executive-leaders-and-the-governing-boards/The-Coronavirus-Information-for-governing-boards-M.aspx>

### **What Children are Saying to Childline about Coronavirus (NPSCC)**

I thought that you may be interested in this from the NSPCC:

*Gaining an insight into the worries that children have shared with Childline during this pandemic can help adults think about what support needs to be put in place for young people at this time.*

You can download the summary here:

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/2195/what-children-are-saying-to-childline-about-coronavirus.pdf>.

### **BBC Bitesize: Parents' Toolkit: SEND**

There are SEND (special educational needs and disabilities) resources, activities and support available to help parents and families during lockdown:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zh9v382>.

### **DfE Updates**

#### ***Coronavirus (COVID-19): free school meals guidance***

The latest guidance for schools and local authorities on free school meals arrangements during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak is available.

It includes updated information about school food contracts and free school meal eligibility. Added guidance and a sample application form on the temporary extension of free school meals eligibility to NRPF groups.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance#history>.

#### ***Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance for schools and other educational settings***

Guidance and advice about coronavirus (COVID-19) in educational settings for staff, parents and carers, pupils and students has been updated.

Added: 'Coronavirus (COVID-19): reducing burdens on educational and care settings' to finance and administration.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-reducing-burdens-on-educational-and-care-settings>.

#### ***Get help with technology for remote education during coronavirus (COVID-19)***

The Department for Education is working in partnership with an industry coalition to provide technology to support remote education.

The DfE have clarified the role of responsible bodies in ordering digital devices for eligible children and young people.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-help-with-technology-for-remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>.

### **Staff Support Available for Schools**

Please remember that we have staff available to be deployed into schools to help with provision being made for pupils. This does not have to be for the support of learners with SEN.

In recent weeks, we have deployed staff into a range of settings to boost staff ratios, to assist in covering for staff absence, and to provide specialist advice where learners who are attending have been showing unsettled behaviour caused by changes to familiar routines etc. NCC are committed to supporting you to accommodate vulnerable learners, and to offer places to those who may be 'on the edge of social care' as the government guidance describes.

If providing you with extra staff enables you to broaden your offer, we would be pleased to help. Please call Simon Baxter on 07870365983 to discuss this further.

### **The Northumberland Youth Service Home Challenge**

To help keep young people active at this time, the Northumberland Youth Service have come up with *The Northumberland Home Challenge*. If you can promote this to your pupils, it would be really appreciated.

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The task is to complete 6 challenges over the next few weeks. Young people of all ages are asked to document all their achievements, send the evidence of what you have done to the Youth Service and they will receive a certificate and a chance to win an online voucher to spend.

The Requirements:

- The young person must be residing in Northumberland during the lockdown phase of Covid19.
- Challenges must be completed during the lockdown phase.
- The young person must send through evidence that they have completed the challenges to receive their certificate and to be in with a chance to win the vouchers.

All information, including the work booklet, is on the NCC Youth Service website:

<https://bit.ly/nlandhomechallenge>