

Headteachers' Update

The Daily 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

Monitoring and Tracking Vulnerable Learners - Week 2 w/b 27th April 2020

Thank you for all your returns last week, which is enabling us to gather information for the vulnerable youngsters for whom Northumberland is responsible. As per the DfE guidance of 19th April, you'll be aware that *'where applicable, designated safeguarding leads and/or equivalent staff should keep under review their lists of vulnerable children and young people who should be attending provision. Providers are encouraged to share their lists of vulnerable children and young people who should be attending provision with their local authority.'*

The Week 2 Vulnerable Learner List will be available via School360 later today.

All Northumberland schools already have access to School360 as this is how we transfer secure data throughout the year. Please note that your account holder may not be the Headteacher, as all schools have nominated a specific person to access the secure folders.

Schools and settings that are 'outside' Northumberland have had an account set up specifically for this task with and access details were sent to the nominated person via email week commencing 20th April 2020.

Please note, your nominated person will receive an email today to advise that the list is available.

The spreadsheet can be found in the Social Care Involvement folder and named "Week 2 Vulnerable Learner List" - please ensure you complete the correct week, for this week the deadline is Thursday 30th April 2020 at 5pm.

The form should be completed online - it should not need to be downloaded. If you have trouble accessing please email dataunit@northumberland.gov.uk.

Thank you for your cooperation in this task. Logging in each Monday, you will find a form to complete. As information changes in terms of current open cases, we need to provide fresh forms each week.

There are guidance notes available at <http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/coronavirus/>.

- 360 Login Information (non-SLA)
- Vulnerable List on School360 Instructions

DfE Updates - A bumper crop over the weekend for your perusal

(Do remember that all DfE/LA guidance regarding COVID-19 is available on the [Coronavirus Update](#) page of the Northumberland Education website.)

Early years foundation stage statutory framework (EYFS)

Updated statutory guidance is now available for the standards that school and childcare providers must meet for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5.

Guidance to the temporarily disapplied and modified certain elements of the EYFS statutory framework has now been added.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2#history>.

Awarding qualifications in summer 2020

Information has been provided for schools, students and parents on how GCSE, AS, A level, vocational and technical qualifications will be graded and awarded in summer 2020.

Change made: Guidance for vocational, technical and other qualifications updated to reflect consultation on grading arrangements for summer 2020.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2020?utm_source=dbb11c16-3c94-46ff-a118-39b96ff3d2e0&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily.

Using clusters and hubs to maintain educational provision

(NOTE: There still appears to be little demand for a 'hub' model in Northumberland.)

This is newly published guidance on what educational settings need to know when making decisions on cluster or hub models, during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/using-clusters-and-hubs-to-maintain-educational-provision>.

Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus outbreak

This guidance outlines what childcare services early years settings, childminders and local authorities need to provide during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Change made: Updated to reflect changes in Early Years Statutory Framework.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures?utm_source=43c8d54f-f20d-42c3-b934-d0b6d23ea342&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily.

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

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

This now includes guidance on 'Using clusters and hubs to maintain educational provision' and 'Changes to school admission appeals due to coronavirus'.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings#history>.

School admissions appeals code

Statutory guidance is available on how schools should organise and run their pupil admissions appeals.

Guidance has been added about the changes to the admission appeals regulations during the coronavirus outbreak.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-admissions-appeals-code>.

Providing free school meals during the coronavirus outbreak

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

A link to the 16 to 19 free meals in further education guidance has been added and information about Aldi joining the national voucher scheme.

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

Schools to benefit from education partnership with tech giants

The DfE have issued a press release stating: 'Thousands of schools to receive technical support to start using Google and Microsoft's education platforms.'

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/schools-to-benefit-from-education-partnership-with-tech-giants>.

Get technology support for children and schools during coronavirus (COVID-19)

Guidance has been provided for schools and colleges on how to get internet access, digital devices and support to provide remote education during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Local authorities can also get support for care leavers, and children and young people with a social worker.

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

The next three articles are all from the National Governance Association Newsletter:

(1) Accessible resources for remote learning (from NGA Newsletter)

The Education Endowment Foundation has released new [research findings](#) focusing on the features of pupil engagement with remote learning. The research states that engaging with online content and supportive materials allows knowledge to be built upon and enables clear understanding, emphasising the importance of access to technology for both the learning and interaction with peers. Disadvantaged pupils are thought to be the most impacted as a result of school closures and this week, the [government introduced the new measures](#) to reduce this impact through remote learning.

The partial closures of schools has led many teaching staff to identify a new way of working to support and maintain the learning of their students. This week, Oak National Academy trust has launched their [resource hub](#) to provide teachers with supportive learning resources. The resources cover a range of subjects including maths, English, language and arts which are designed to complement teacher's lesson plans whilst remote teaching takes place. All lessons are free to use for all teachers and pupils.

The BBC have also launched their own [education package](#) supporting pupils from aged 3 to 16+. The package allows online lesson scheduling, toolkits for parents aiding students with SEND along with videos and engaging tools for a broad range of subjects.

(2) NGA and Ofsted joint research project into the impact of COVID-19 on governance

NGA and Ofsted have begun a joint research project that will investigate how governors and trustees are continuing to support and challenge schools during these difficult times.

The research will look at the short- and long-term impact of school closures on priorities for governors and trustees and how they are responding to new situations. We want to understand how governors and trustees in all types of schools are managing business as usual and thinking about the longer-term issues they may need to address when schools reopen.

We hope this research will give insight into how governance has responded to an extraordinary situation and support the work the NGA does providing advice and guidance to governors and trustees.

As part of this research we would like to speak to governors and trustees in different types of schools across different age phases. If you are interested in taking part in this research, please contact ResearchQuestion@Ofsted.gov.uk.

(3) Why sharing your view in the annual school governance survey is important

Earlier this week, we opened the [annual school governance survey](#) for responses. It's open to all governors, trustees and local academy committee members. Regardless of your position on the board or how long you have been governing, your views and experiences are valued and welcomed.

Now in its 10th year, the findings of the survey provide crucial insight and information for NGA, policymakers and education organisations about who governs, your views on education policy and the practice of governing boards.

Joint Statement to Schools on Educational Visits and the impact of COVID-19 from Leading Outdoor Education Bodies

Industry bodies associated with Outdoor Education and Adventurous Activities have recently released a joint statement regarding the impact of COVID-19 upon school visits. This may be accessed by [clicking here](#).

The statement focuses upon current DfE, FCO and PHE guidance, school closures and provides an update on the current position regarding visit cancellations.

This serves to support the current position of the Authority regarding educational visits.

Further information and support may be accessed via the Councils online system for the management of visits, [Evolve](#). Queries may also be directed to the Corporate Health and Safety Team - healthandsafety@northumberland.gov.uk - tel: 01670 623807.