

Headteachers' Update

The Daily 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

An Update on Numbers

We saw the second highest number of children in school yesterday, Thursday, since the lockdown period began. Across the county, we had 147 schools and AP providers open with 1282 children in attendance. 854 of those children were from key worker families, 315 that are identified as vulnerable and 113 children that have an EHCP which is, again, the highest number to date.

In addition, we had 202 pre-school provisions open with 324 children in attendance.

On behalf of everyone at Northumberland County Council, I would like to thank you for everything that you are doing and the spirit in which you are doing it. There are interesting days ahead, but I have not the slightest doubt that you will manage them admirably

OFSTED: coronavirus (COVID-19) rolling update

OFSTED has updated its guidance and information relating to coronavirus for schools, early years, children's social care and further education and skills providers.

Providers with reports in the pipeline will be asked whether they would like their report published as soon as possible, and if so, these will be published shortly.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofsted-coronavirus-covid-19-rolling-update>

House of Commons Education Select Committee Wednesday 29 April

The Education Select Committee met on Wednesday morning to discuss 'The Impact of COVID19 on Education and Children's Services' with the Secretary of State, Gavin Williamson. It can be viewed and / or listened to at:

<https://parliamentlive.tv/event/index/0aa3b915-6d60-4469-8b59-4d2f49dc6fbf>

Safe to Learn: Latest Edition

This week's edition of the local authority's schools safeguarding team's newsletter, Safe to Learn, which is now published weekly, is available from:

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Child-Families/Looked%20after%20children/Safe-to-Learn-Bulletin-Issue-35-01-05-20.pdf>

DfE SEND Updates and Notices

Important temporary changes to SEND legislation were announced yesterday and are covered in the three updates below.

1. Modification notice: EHC plans legislation changes

The Secretary of State for Education has issued a notice to modify the duty relating to education, health and care (EHC) plans during the coronavirus outbreak.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modification-notice-ehc-plans-legislation-changes>

2. Changes to the law on education, health and care needs assessments and plans due to coronavirus

Guidance has been provided on the *temporary* changes to education, health and care legislation during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. See: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-law-on-education-health-and-care-needs-assessments-and-plans-due-to-coronavirus>

3. SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years

The guidance on the special educational needs and disability (SEND) system for children and young people aged 0 to 25, from September 2014 has had a page added to the new guidance on 'Changes to the law on education, health and care needs assessments and plans due to coronavirus'. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>

Other DfE Updates

Disapplication notice: school attendance legislation changes

The Secretary of State for Education has issued a notice to disapply offences for non-attendance in schools during the coronavirus outbreak. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disapplication-notice-school-attendance-legislation-changes>

Modification notice: school registration legislation changes

The Secretary of State for Education has issued a notice to modify pupil registration requirements when providing education on a temporary basis during the coronavirus outbreak. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modification-notice-school-registration-legislation-changes>

Disapplication notice: school inspections legislation changes

The Secretary of State for Education has issued a notice about changes to state-funded school inspections requirements during the coronavirus outbreak. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disapplication-notice-school-inspections-legislation-changes>

School behaviour and attendance: parental responsibility measures

Statutory guidance was issued for schools, local authorities and the police on dealing with poor attendance and behaviour in schools.

It has been updated to reflect changes made under the Coronavirus Act 2020 concerning school attendance and parental responsibility measures <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/parental-responsibility-measures-for-behaviour-and-attendance>

School attendance: guidance for schools

The guidance on using pupil registers and attendance codes, as well as setting school hours and term dates has been updated to reflect changes made under the Coronavirus Act 2020 concerning school attendance. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-attendance>

Awarding qualifications in summer 2020

The information for schools, students and parents on how GCSE, AS, A level, vocational and technical qualifications will be graded and awarded in summer 2020 has been updated to include a 'Private Candidate Policy'. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2020?utm_source=e6b7e2fa-bb66-41c5-93a7-6e014b3036a2&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily