

Headteachers' Update

The Daily 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

Proforma Risk Assessment

See below for the updated Risk Assessment Proforma (RA1).

As some of you know, this has been reviewed by a group of headteachers from across all phases, updated last weekend to reflect their comments and then updated further this week following the publication of the DfE school opening proposals. I would like to thank all the headteachers that gave up their time to help with this. I would also like to thank my colleagues in the Health and Safety Service, and Amanda Young in particular, for pulling this together.

Please do not 'adopt' the document as it is. You need to use it as a proforma to help you to develop your own health and safety policy in agreement with your governors in order to provide you with a defensible position should you be challenged.

The proforma risk assessment can be found at: <http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/COVID19-School-Risk-Assessment-Template.docx>

In addition, you can find the May 2020 Health and Safety Bulletin at: http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/HS-Bulletin_-Health-and-Safety-during-COVID-19-Schools.pdf

Letter to SEN Governors

This week, we are circulating a letter to all SEN Governors and Chairs of Governors which updates them on a number of issues, including:

- the latest DfE guidance on SEN
- school responsibilities with regard to learners with additional needs
- the flexibilities introduced by the government around SEN statutory processes.

The letter will be sent by email to all SEN Governors and Chairs of Governors.

DfE Alerts

Given the speed that things are changing at during the current crisis, you may be interested in registering for the DfE Alert system. It provides the latest news and updates for schools about COVID19, as well as a specific weekly Teacher Bulletin. These come directly to your inbox. You can register at:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKDFE/subscriber/new>

DfE Updates

Coronavirus testing eligibility and how test and testing kits work

Anyone in England showing symptoms of coronavirus who has to leave the home to go to work, or is aged 65 and over, is eligible for testing along with members of their households with symptoms. This is in addition to all essential workers with symptoms.

Guidance on coronavirus testing, including who is eligible for a test, how to get tested and the different types of test available can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-tests-and-testing-kits-for-coronavirus-covid-19-work-for-patients-the-public-and-professional-users-a-guide-to-covid-19-tests-and-testing-kits>

Preparations for national thank a teacher day – Wednesday 20 May

On Wednesday 20 May, the DfE is celebrating teachers, senior leaders, support staff and all those working in education settings who are making a difference to their schools and communities during the coronavirus outbreak.

The Department for Education is working in partnership with the Teaching Awards Trust which has produced a set of resources including a Thank a Teacher toolkit containing graphics, images and frames for social media that you are free to use.

The Thank a Teacher Toolkit is available here:
<https://thankateacher.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Thank-a-Teacher-Day-2020-Tool-Kit.pdf>

Curriculum Subject Associations

Many of the curriculum subject associations are providing specific support and CPD for teachers during the COVID-19 outbreak. A directory of all subject associations is available at:
<https://www.subjectassociations.org.uk/the-cfsa-directory/>

The Early Career Framework

The Early Career Framework is being piloted in a number of regions, including the north east, in the next academic year. All Northumberland schools are strongly encouraged to participate if they have an NQT starting in September. There are four providers from which schools can choose.

Further details about the Early Career Framework, and copies of their recent webinars, are available at
<http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/ecf/>

Puberty Education at Home

The summer term is the time when many schools would have addressed learning about the physical and emotional changes of puberty, usually with Year 5. This is one of the statutory elements of Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE). Children tell us that learning about puberty and body changes from parents and carers is the next best thing to learning about it at school.

To help parents and carers to have these important conversations at home, we've put together some of the resources that will help families to discuss these themes with confidence. We know how important it is to have quality-assured, factual information, and to protect children from myths and misinformation.

[This link](#) takes you to a Padlet of resources about male bodies and puberty.

[This link](#) is to a Padlet of resources about female bodies and menstruation.

Good quality RSHE would teach children to understand about male and female body changes, so it is a good idea to share both with all families.

If there is a resource you would like to see included, or another aspect of RSHE for which you would like to see a Padlet of resources, please email [Gill Finch](mailto:Gill.Finch).