

Headteachers' Update

The Daily 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

School Registers

All Headteachers and Behaviour/Attendance Leads need to be aware of the advice to schools on completing registers from 1st June 2020.

Following the publication of DfE guidance on attendance last week, see the link below for advice from our Education Welfare Service:

<http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Register-coding-from-01.06.20.pdf>

Unexpected 'One Site' Issues

I am aware that you are all going to great lengths to minimise the mixing of groups to reduce risks. This includes keeping children on one site 'whenever possible'. This strategy is, however, throwing up some unexpected further issues for some of our key worker families who rely on other settings to support wrap around care. Rigidly sticking to a single site policy means that some of those key workers cannot now attend work, which creates risk to the wider community.

Could I ask that headteachers take the individual circumstances of key worker families into account and consider allowing childminder pick-ups where they are unavoidable. This is permissible within the guidance. Childminders will also be operating under best practice with regard to safe working so the additional risk of accessing such wrap around care should be minimal.

Space related educational resources for home schooling

For all those children (and adults) inspired by the launch and docking of NASA SpaceX over the weekend, the UK Space Agency has published a collection of space related educational resources that schools, parents and carers can use when teaching their children at home.

The resources are available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/space-related-educational-resources-for-home-schooling>

DfE Updates

A lot of updates from the DfE over the weekend and continuing today.

Letter to Parents, Children and Staff re SEN from the DfE

The link below will take you to an open letter from Vicky Ford MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families, to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities, their parents/carers and families, and others who support them, about the wider opening of schools and other educational settings from 1 June 2020:

<http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Minister-Fords-open-letter-to-SEN-D-sector-schools-opening.pdf>

Critical workers who can access schools or educational settings

List of critical workers (key workers) who can send their children to school or other educational settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

UPDATED GUIDANCE: The guidance has been updated to reflect the announcement by the Prime Minister that the government's 5 tests have been met and the decision, based on all the evidence, to move forward with the wider opening of education and childcare settings.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings

Guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement protective measures.

UPDATED GUIDANCE: The guidance has been updated to reflect the announcement by the Prime Minister that the government's 5 tests have been met and confirmation of wider opening of education and childcare settings from 1 June, and updated information on testing for coronavirus.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

Actions for educational and childcare settings to prepare for wider opening from 1 June 2020

Next steps for the phased wider opening of educational and childcare settings.

UPDATED GUIDANCE: The guidance has been updated to reflect the announcement by the Prime Minister that the government's 5 tests have been met and the decision, based on all the evidence, to move forward with wider opening of education and childcare settings.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020>

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

Guidance on temporary changes to special educational needs and disability legislation during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

UPDATED GUIDANCE: This updated guidance includes additional or amended material, including: cases in progress on 1 May 2020; annual reviews for those with EHC plans changing phase of education; actions following a tribunal ruling; and unchanged duties in relation to social care provision in plans.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-law-on-education-health-and-care-needs-assessments-and-plans-due-to-coronavirus?utm_source=bda528ad-1686-42a5-bb5f-14842d8140f7&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

School attendance: guidance for schools

UPDATED GUIDANCE: the guidance on using pupil registers and attendance codes, as well as setting school hours and term dates, has been updated.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-attendance?utm_source=b0679c4f-c140-4f83-a125-6baaaf749a96&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

School behaviour and attendance: parental responsibility measures

UPDATED GUIDANCE: The statutory guidance for schools, local authorities and the police on dealing with poor attendance and behaviour in schools has been updated.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/parental-responsibility-measures-for-behaviour-and-attendance>

School exclusion

Statutory guidance on the exclusion of pupils from local-authority-maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units.

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE: guidance has been added on changes to school exclusions during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

****NOTE**** The DfE have made some temporary changes to the exclusion process in light of COVID-19. The changes are:

- Making specific provision for governing board meetings and independent reviews to take place via audio or video link, if not reasonably practicable in person due to COVID-19;
- Time extensions for governing board meetings and independent review panel (IRP) meetings, if necessary;
- An extension to the time limit for application for an independent review.

The changes will apply to exclusions occurring between 1 June and 24 September (inclusive of those dates) as well as to exclusions that occur before 1 June which are still 'live'. Guidance describing the new arrangements can be found [here](#).

This is purely about processes – it does not change the power to exclude.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-exclusion>

Coronavirus Act 2020 – Notices to temporarily remove or relax statutory requirements in education and childcare

NOTE: All of the items below have been brought to your attention on previous Updates. They have all now been extended until the 30th June.

The DfE recognises that during the coronavirus outbreak, flexibility will be needed in education and childcare settings. Under the Coronavirus Act 2020, the Secretary of State for Education can issue notices to temporarily remove or relax statutory requirements and provisions in academy arrangements where this is an appropriate and proportionate action relating to the incidence or transmission of coronavirus. The Secretary of State for Education has issued four notices to:

- [disapply offences for non-attendance](#) in schools during the coronavirus outbreak, so that parents will not be penalised if their child does not attend school.
- [modify pupil registration requirements](#) so that a child attending a school on a temporary basis because of the coronavirus outbreak should not be registered as a pupil and should return to their usual school once it reopens.
- [disapply the duty on Ofsted](#) to undertake regular inspections of state-funded schools within prescribed intervals. Duties on other bodies to provide a statement of action and relating to the inspection of collective worship and denominational education are also disapplied.
- [modify the duty on local authorities](#) to secure special educational provision and on health commissioning bodies to arrange health provision in accordance with education, health and care (EHC) plans, so that they can discharge this by using their 'reasonable endeavours'.

The notices apply from 1 June 2020 to 30 June 2020. We will continuously review whether these notices are an appropriate and proportionate action in all the circumstances relating to the incidence or transmission of coronavirus. Further notices may be made as a result.

DfE Early Years Guidance Clarifications

There has been a clarification of some specific points in the [Planning guide for early years and childcare settings](#) that the DfE published over the bank holiday weekend:

- The reference to 16 children in a group refers to the maximum number allowed in a group or 'bubble' not in the setting as a whole. PHE has agreed that additional children can be added to a bubble. It is possible to have multiple groups as long as they are socially distanced
- The DfE clarified that outdoor areas contained within the site are seen as part of the setting and should continue to be used. This may include the use of smaller groups, social distancing from other users and risk assessments
- Public Health England's latest advice is that sandpits should not be used as they cannot be thoroughly cleaned between usage, however, if use is limited to one group then this reduces the risks

Education Select Committee

Inquiry into the impact of Covid-19 on education and children's services and how the DfE is dealing with the situation.

The inquiry will look at how the outbreak of COVID-19 is affecting all aspects of the education sector and children's social care system and will scrutinise how the Department for Education is dealing with the situation. It will examine both short term impacts, such as the effects of school closures and exam cancellations, as well as longer-term implications particularly for the most vulnerable children.

The deadline for submissions, originally 31 May, has been extended to allow more time for submissions to be made. The deadline is now Tuesday 21 July. The call for evidence can be found at:

<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/202/the-impact-of-covid19-on-education-and-childrens-services/>