

Headteachers' Update

The Daily 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

Schools Reopening

Today, we had 164 schools and other providers open, of which 66 were opening to a wider range of children. 3220 children were in attendance, of which 1279 were in the eligible age groups. 1941 were children who had previously attended schools as they were either classified as vulnerable, having an EHCP or a child of a key worker.

Ongoing Offer of NCC Staff to Support Schools

On Monday we will send further information about the offer of SEN Support Services into schools for the remainder of the term, and the way in which schools can request support. We will be responding to the current situation by offering a service across the County which does not depend on SLA arrangements and focuses on current priorities; to ensure that schools are able to accommodate and support learners with SEND who are attending. For EHCP learners, this may include discussion about the reasonable endeavours around provision laid out in the Plan.

If more general support is required, I would ask that you use the phone number previously issued for Simon Baxter 07870365983. We are hoping to continue to be able to offer this more generic support, but it will be dependent on staff availability and also the demand for SEND support as time goes by.

School Transport Risk Assessment

The risk assessment has been updated as follows (the additional text added is in bold below).

Social Distancing

Maximum occupancy levels on vehicles needs to be constrained to ensure 2 metre social distancing between driver and children and between children themselves. The only exception to this is for

*passengers from the same household who are allowed to sit together but must still be seated 2 metres away from the driver or other passengers. **Note: Children who are allocated to a specific cohort/bubble in school are not required to utilise school transport in those cohorts only. Children from different cohorts may use the same transport providing social distancing is in place and that it is strictly adhered to on that transport.***

"A risk assessment covering school transport and coronavirus has been sent to contracted transport operators with an instruction that they must follow. If they foresee any difficulties in doing so (for example, complying with social distancing rules) then they are advised to contact the school transport team so alternative travel arrangements can be put in place for the children. This risk assessment has been developed with input from Public Health and Health and Safety officers. If you wish to have a copy of the latest version of the risk assessment then please email

transportcompliance@northumberland.gov.uk.

Clearly, the return of children to using the school transport service is not uniform and for a variety of reasons (parental choice whether to send children to school, unable to know whether parents will want their child to return to using school transport, ad-hoc days of attendance etc) it is difficult to anticipate what the take-up is on any given day. This is why we have written to parents to advise them to contact their child's school transport provider directly (they have been given contact details) if they wish school transport to be reinstated for their child. Please reiterate this to parents if they raise the matter of school transport to you. The letter parents were sent was included in a previous briefing".

DfE Communication to schools on the implementation of Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex and Health Education

The Department for Education issued an update today regarding the implementation of statutory PSHE from September.

In summary, the statutory requirement to provide these aspects of PSHE education is still in place, and schools should continue to prepare for September where possible. Many schools are already offering high quality PSHE that covers, and exceeds, statutory content or will be prepared to do so by the beginning of the new school year. However, due to the coronavirus and closures, schools who are not in a position to implement fully from September have been granted some leeway - and now have until Summer term 2021 to do so.

The full update is available [here](#).

DfE Updates

School governance: coronavirus update

Important news and communications from the Department for Education (DfE) relating to governance in maintained schools and academy trusts in England.

1. UPDATED DOCUMENT: The DfE have added a 'School governance: coronavirus (COVID-19) update' to the resources.

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

2. In addition, there is a new **message from the Secretary of State to governors**:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-governance-update/governance-update-april-2020>

Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak

What schools need to do 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 five 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/covid-19-school-closures>

£7 million for vulnerable pupils leaving Alternative Provision

PRESS RELEASE: The DfE has announced that more than 11,000 vulnerable young people are to receive support to move into the next stage of education or employment (see update below).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/7-million-for-vulnerable-pupils-leaving-alternative-provision>

Alternative provision: year 11 transition funding

NEW ANNOUNCEMENT: This announcement sets out the financial support available to alternative provision (AP) schools and colleges to support current year 11 students into post-16 education.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/alternative-provision-year-11-transition-funding>

List a teaching job at your school on Teaching Vacancies

Use this service to list a teaching job at your school and view the jobs you have already listed.

UPDATE: The DfE has updated information in 'Before you start', which covers the details needed when making a listing.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/list-a-teaching-job-at-your-school-on-teaching-vacancies>

Current Guidance on Potentially Symptomatic Adults

The current advice is that if a symptomatic person (who is not a Health and Social Care worker) tests negative they can come out of isolation either:

- once their symptoms resolve, or
- 48 hours post symptoms of diarrhoea and vomiting, or
- after 7 days if they just have a cough or changes to your sense of smell or taste (since these symptoms can last for weeks after the infection has gone).

This aligns with the national NHS T&T guidance: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/what-your-test-result-means/>

which indicates that you can come out of isolation if you test negative and feel well.

The reason for this is that if still symptomatic they may have a different illness that could spread to other people.

Household contacts of a case that tests negative can come out of isolation unless they work with a vulnerable population e.g. care home / health trust.

Can my child repeat a year?

I am aware that a number of headteachers have been asked by parents whether or not their child can repeat a school year. You may not be aware that this was published on Tuesday at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

It includes a clear message about repeating a year, which applies equally to the SEN sector. For EHC plans, the final decision would be down to the local authority, but there are no plans to support with additional high needs funding if LAs do agree to an extension.

1.15 Once a child has been admitted to a school it is for the head teacher to decide how best to educate them. This may, on occasion, include deciding that a child should be educated in a year group other than the one indicated by their age. Such decisions should be based on sound educational reasons and in consultation with parents.

We do not currently anticipate that children and young people will need to repeat a school year as a consequence of the coronavirus outbreak. We continue to look at all options to make sure children

and young people get the support they need to continue their education during the coronavirus outbreak and make up for time spent out of school.

However, it remains possible for headteachers to agree this in individual cases if they think it is appropriate.

We Are In Beta Online Education Leaders Community

I have been approached by Niall Alcock from the: We Are In Beta Online Education Leaders Community and he has asked that I bring his organisation to your attention. Having looked at the details, I am comfortable passing them on to you. Niall wrote:

'Thousands of leaders and teachers up and down the country are duplicating work in preparation for the 'return' to school.

I am working on a collaboration with a growing number of leaders, schools, MATs and LAs to help. It would be fantastic to get your support.

We Are In Beta represents an online community of over 1000 school leaders and teachers.

They shared their concerns about the overwhelming research, decisions and workload around the return to school. They asked us to pool school 'reopening' documents in one place.

You can [pledge your support by sharing documents and help your schools access the growing database here.](#)

If you would like me to add you to a group with other LA education leaders we are coordinating, please do let me know. I'd be happy to include you in the national communications going forward.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or suggestions.'

Niall Alcock, We Are In Beta, Founder, 07833160542

Podcast: [iTunes](#) | [Spotify](#): What people are saying: [Series 1](#) | [Series 2](#) Follow: [Blog](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Newsletter](#): Supported by [TeachFirst](#) | [Young Foundation](#) | [Super Being Labs](#)

Newcastle University Online Lecture: Playing Out: Promoting Community and Belonging through Play, Wednesday 10th June 13:30-14:30 via Zoom

This event will include a presentation from:
Professor Alison Stenning: Playing Out: Promoting Community and Belonging through Play.

If you are interested, you can sign up now to book a place: <https://bit.ly/nukessplanning2>.

IMPORTANTUnion Contact Details****

Following this afternoon's Locality Headteacher Meeting, find below a link to all the contact email addresses for the unions and associations that you MUST submit your risk assessments to for consultation.

The union and association contact details are here: <http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/trade-union-contact-details/>