

Headteachers' Update

The Daily 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

Proforma Equalities Impact Assessment

Find below a link to the proforma Equalities Impact Assessment that you need to complete to go alongside your updated risk assessment. All instructions are contained within the document.

<http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/NCC-Schools-HR-guidance-on-COVID19-EIA-110620.docx>

Summer Free School Meals

You may have heard that the DfE have announced an extension to the free school meal programme to cover the summer holiday. The statement below was on The Guardian's website and provides some details:

The Prime Minister's spokesman told journalists: 'Owing to the coronavirus pandemic, the prime minister fully understands that children and parents face an entirely unprecedented situation over the summer. To reflect this, we will be providing a Covid summer food fund. This will provide food vouchers covering the six-week holiday period. Full details will be set out shortly, but this is a specific measure to reflect the unique circumstances of the pandemic. The scheme will not continue beyond the summer and those eligible will be those who already qualify for free school meals. As the PM has said it is our intention, to get all pupils back into school in September.

Payment will be through vouchers and most likely it will be a one-off six week voucher given to eligible families at the end of term to use in supermarkets.

The scheme will cost the government around £120m and this will be in addition to the £63m already announced to help councils provide support for low-income families over the summer.

The vouchers will be worth £15 a week, the spokesman said. Around 1.3 million children, or 15% of state pupils, will benefit.'

DfE Updates

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 DfE has added information on how primary schools can use flexibility to welcome back additional pupils this term, where they have capacity.

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

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 DfE has added information on how primary schools can use flexibility to welcome back additional pupils this term, where they have capacity.

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

Laptops, tablets and 4G wireless routers progress data

The DfE has provided information about how many laptops, tablets and 4G wireless routers they have delivered or dispatched to local authorities and academy trusts.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/laptops-tablets-and-4g-wireless-routers-progress-data>

School complaints procedures: guidance for maintained schools

How local authority-maintained schools and maintained nurseries can set up or review their complaints procedures.

UPDATED GUIDANCE: The DfE has added links to separate guidance covering the complaints procedures for academies and independent schools.

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

A Message from Elizabeth Berridge, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the School System to all School Business Professionals

As Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the School System, I am writing to thank you for your work in managing the Covid-19 response.

The title “school business professional” is a catch-all for many roles. You might be called a finance director in a multi-academy trust, an office manager in a local authority primary school, or a business leader in a secondary school.

Fundamentally, you do what you do so that the teachers can get on and teach. But much more than that – the skills you bring in finance, HR, estate management, support services and many other areas mean that your school can provide the best education possible for your pupils.

For the last few months, I know you have also been at the front and centre of this pandemic.

I hope you appreciate that you play a crucial role in the life of your school which can often go unnoticed, but in a time of such immense upheaval many of you will have been forced into the spotlight. I know that you have been working harder than ever to ensure the safety of staff and students.

Please accept my deepest thanks for all you have done so far. I want to be clear that as a Department, we acknowledge and appreciate your commitment to your pupils. We have seen this through the effort you have put in to provide free school meals and to make sure all pupils have the resources they need to learn at home.

We are now moving into recovery and I know that you will continue to face the challenges ahead with all the professionalism, skill and determination you have demonstrated so far. Schools are integral to our communities during this crisis and to the future of our country and so, on behalf of the Department for Education, thank you.

COVID19 Films for Children

The South West DPH Group have made the two videos below for schools on preventing and managing cases of COVID-19 in schools. These are essentially brief summaries of the national schools’ guidance. They are very good, so we thought they were worth sharing with you in case you wished to re-use them in school.

1. Prevention of infection:

https://www.powtoon.com/online-presentation/bBEyP5C1pEt/?utm_medium=SocialShare&utm_campaign=copy%2Bshare%2Bby%2Bowner&utm_source=player-page-social-share&utm_content=bBEyP5C1pEt&utm_po=29849093&mode=movie

2. Management of single cases of COVID19:

https://www.powtoon.com/online-presentation/f4YAJsbwuFi/?utm_medium=SocialShare&utm_campaign=copy%2Bshare%2Bby%2Bowner&utm_source=player-page-social-share&utm_content=f4YAJsbwuFi&utm_po=29849093&mode=movie

Insurance Issues for Secondary Schools

Following yesterday’s announcement about ‘other’ age groups in primary schools and the related insurance issues, we asked about any potential wider secondary opening. They said:

The position for secondary schools is different and the guidance does seem to be more prescriptive around what is expected for all year groups in respect of face-to-face meetings in addition to the existing provision for vulnerable children and children of critical workers and the expectation of the insurers would be that these guidelines are complied with.

Parliament Education Select Committee

The transcript of last week's session on 'The Impact of COVID19 on Education and Children's Service' that considered exam cancellations and calculated grades can be found here:

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/493/pdf>

Tomorrow's session is on: *Reopening of Schools – How has it gone so far, and what are the next steps?*