

Headteachers' Update

The Daily 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

Pupil Update

We have had around 8000 pupils in school every day this week and, by Monday next week, we hope that we will have every school in the county open or, in the very small schools, sharing their children with another local school. On behalf of the local authority, I would like to thank all our headteachers, school staff and governors for everything that you have done to build the confidence of your communities in the safety of your school and the quality of your offer.

DfE Updates

COVID-19: guidance on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing

Advice for parents and carers on looking after the mental health and wellbeing of children or young people during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

UPDATED GUIDANCE: The DfE has updated the guidance to reflect the latest social distancing measures.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-people-mental-health-and-wellbeing?utm_source=c23e388f-50d0-4761-8655-48802fd13d7d&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Keeping children safe from abuse and harm

NEW GUIDANCE: Advice for parents and carers about the main risks that children may be particularly vulnerable to at this time and information about the available help and support.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-from-abuse-and-harm>

DfE Consultation on Changes to the School Admissions Code

OPEN CONSULTATION: The School Admission Code has remained unchanged since 2014 and urgently needs to be updated, so I am really pleased to see this. I would strongly urge you to read this and provide a response, if you feel it to be appropriate. The DfE say that:

The revised code seeks to clarify and improve the school admissions process where children are admitted to school in-year, so outside of the normal admissions round. The revised code will also provide additional information and details that will support admission authorities in discharging their duties effectively.

These changes are primarily intended to support the most vulnerable children. We are not seeking views on wider changes to the admissions system and other elements of the code at this stage.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-the-school-admissions-code-4>

Vulnerable children to get better support when moving school

DfE PRESS RELEASE ON THE ADMISSIONS CODE CONSULTATION: The DfE has outlined proposals to reduce the time that vulnerable children spend out of the classroom, with a consultation launched on changes to the School Admissions Code

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/vulnerable-children-to-get-better-support-when-moving-school>

Summer-born children: school admission

Guidance about school admissions for children born in the summer.

UPDATED GUIDANCE: The DfE has added an updated statement on the admission of summer born children for 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summer-born-children-school-admission>

School Transitions

Successful transitions between schools, and indeed within schools, are going to provide more challenging than usual in the current situation. No doubt you are working on plans across partnerships to facilitate as smooth arrangements as possible. For learners with SEN, things may be particularly difficult.

Prior to the lockdown, a working party of Education and Skills staff planned a transition campaign to raise the importance of a positive transition between classes and schools. As part of that campaign, a padlet was created and has been updated regularly over the past weeks. It contains:

- General transition advice
- Resources to use to support the transition process primarily between schools, but also between classes
- Resources to help support transition for SEN learners

The transitions padlet can be found [here](#).

Safe to Learn

This week's edition of the school's safeguarding bulletin, 'Safe to Learn' is available at:

https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Child-Families/Looked%20after%20children/Safe-to-Learn-Bulletin-Issue-43-26-06-20_1.pdf

School Improvement 'News and Inspiration' Edition 4 is now in production.

The School Improvement Team would like to hear your stories of celebration and success. Following the first Northumberland, Tyne & Wear Virtual School Games last Friday 19th June, please let us know your sporting achievements or feel free to send any other news you would like to share to dave.cookson@northumberland.gov.uk.

Local Government Association (LGA) Update re Early Years Provision

The [Early Years Alliance report](#) was published this week and warned that the childcare sector is at risk of mass closures without urgent government intervention. New modelling from independent research agency CEEDA found that childcare providers in England were operating at average occupancy levels of just 37 per cent on June 8, compared to 77 per cent in spring 2019.

The LGA response to the report [sets out how early years and childcare providers have been asked to step up](#) in the way that schools have in recent months, despite their costs not being covered in the same way.

FOR PASTORAL LEADS: University of Oxford Department for Education Research Paper: School Exclusion Risks after Covid-19

The educational disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic has produced potential new and heightened risks for school exclusions, according to [research](#) from the University of Oxford's Department of Education.

http://www.education.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Daniels-et-al.-2020_School-Exclusion-Risks-after-COVID-19.pdf