

# Headteachers' Update

## The Daily 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

### DFE Updates

#### **NEW GUIDANCE: Local lockdowns: guidance for education and childcare settings**

What schools, colleges, nurseries, childminders, early years and other educational settings need to do if there's a local lockdown during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-lockdowns-guidance-for-education-and-childcare-settings>

### OfSTED Updates

#### **Ofsted: coronavirus (COVID-19) rolling update**

The Ofsted guidance and information relating to coronavirus (COVID-19) for schools, early years, children's social care and further education and skills providers has been updated.

UPDATED: OfSTED has added information for children's social care on regulatory work and temporary changes to registration, and for early years and childcare providers on fast-track applications to operate in a different way or to set up additional premises. It has also removed some out-of-date information for children's social care on regulatory work and temporary changes to registration. Finally, OfSTED has updated the information for early years professionals on paediatric first aid certificates.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofsted-coronavirus-covid-19-rolling-update>

### Headteacher Locality Meeting

A reminder that the weekly Locality Headteacher meeting will be at the earlier time of 11.00am-12.30pm tomorrow, Thursday. The joining link is [here](#).

### Parliamentary Education Select Committee

The video and/ or audio recording of last week's Select Committee session on the impact of COVID19 on children and young people with Special Educational Needs is now available and can be viewed or listened to at:

<https://parliamentlive.tv/Event/Index/7f134072-fb79-443c-a520-6524a888e4c5>

I will post a link to the transcript as soon as it is published.

Last October, the Education Select Committee published its report on Special Educational Needs. It is a hugely informative and important report. You can find it at:

Summary:

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201919/cmselect/cmeduc/20/2003.htm>

Full report:

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201919/cmselect/cmeduc/20/20.pdf>

### SEN: 'Reasonable endeavours'

As you know, at the start of the pandemic the government introduced flexibility around the law relating to children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans. This allowed some leeway with statutory timescales around assessments and annual reviews and permitted the approach of 'reasonable endeavours' when delivering the provision listed in EHCPs. This approach reflected the unprecedented situation whereby very few children were accessing their usual place of education. Northumberland County Council set up a system by which the attendance and welfare monitoring of EHCP learners could be recorded through the period of school closures, and I would like to thank you also for your ongoing completion of the returns.

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In the Autumn, there will be increasing DfE scrutiny about 'reasonable endeavours' due to increasing concern about the impact of the pandemic absence on the most vulnerable. There is, therefore, a need, nationally directed, to demonstrate assurance that reasonable endeavours have been employed by schools in delivering provision detailed within the EHCP.

Rather than request details of what has been delivered for each pupil, we are simply requesting that you complete a statement of assurance (below) that, at your school, reasonable endeavours have been employed with your EHCP learners. This means that you have provided support and learning to meet the needs of individuals within your school and have taken into account their SEN, local context and family circumstances.

The request is that you click on [this link](#) and answer four brief questions to confirm the above. It should take around two minutes, at most, to complete the assurance form.

You are being sent a separate email today, explaining all this in more detail.

## **Local Government Association Updates**

### ***Headteachers call for exams to be cut back next year***

The [Guardian](#) reports that thousands of headteachers across England are calling for exams to be cut back next year amid fears of a mental health crisis among pupils who have lost months of learning in the coronavirus pandemic. The headteachers, from 78 English local authorities and represented by campaign group *Worth Less?*, also want primary assessments cancelled for the coming year and an overhaul of school performance league tables, to allow teachers to focus on student wellbeing.

In addition, a quarter of parents do not intend to send their children back to school in September even though they could be fined, a survey by [Childcare.co.uk](#) has found.