

Headteachers' Update

The Daily 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

DfE Updates

Supporting local areas to prioritise and meet the needs of children and young people with SEND

Ofsted and CQC will visit local areas to support strengthening special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) systems in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, before returning to full inspections when it is right to do so.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/supporting-local-areas-to-prioritise-and-meet-the-needs-of-children-and-young-people-with-send>

HMCI commentary: the future of area special educational needs and disabilities inspections

Ofsted's Chief Inspector, Amanda Spielman, discusses the challenges facing the SEND system, along with Ofsted and CQC's role going forward.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/hmci-commentary-the-future-of-area-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-inspections>

An evaluation of the framework for inspecting local areas' special educational needs and/or disabilities services

Ofsted have published an evaluation report looking at how the area special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) framework is being implemented and its perceived impact on children and young people with SEND.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/an-evaluation-of-the-framework-for-inspecting-local-areas-special-educational-needs-and-or-disabilities-services>

Education plans from September 2020

Ofsted has produced guidance for education providers about its phased return to inspection.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/education-plans-from-september-2020>

Local Authority School Attendance Return

Yesterday, Wednesday, we had the highest number of schools **not** completing the local authority daily attendance return that we have had since this all started in March, with 19 schools not completing the return.

I know that you are all suffering from, among other things, form-filling fatigue, but the attendance form is one of the most important of them all. It informs our weekly response to the DfE to the extent that the DfE no longer use their own figures for Northumberland but use ours.

It would be enormously appreciated if you will keep going for the next six working days and send the completed attendance return to us each day. Thank you.

H&S Update 1: Visitor Information

A Head's audit and visitor questionnaire is now available for use by schools which should assist with the requirement to maintain visitor information and contact details during this time. Those schools which have existing visitor arrangements, including electronic systems, can incorporate this into these systems if they wish. It is important that schools keep contact details for all visitors as this may be needed by the track and trace service or the local Health Protection Team.

Links to both documents are provided below:

- [Visitor / Contractor Checklist Covid-19 - Head's Audit](#)
- [School Visitor / Contractor Questionnaire & Self Declaration](#)

Please note that the process for retaining visitor records may be reviewed and updated in the future.

H&S Update 2: Corporate Health and Safety Team - updated FAQ document

This has now been updated to respond to questions raised by Headteachers and can be accessed via this link: [Health and Safety FAQs for Schools](#).

Pop-Up Return to School Hub: Supporting the emotional health of individual children and young people who are returning to school

In September all children are expected to return to school after the usual six-weeks break. The structure and routine of school is beneficial in creating a sense of safety and security for children and young people and the majority will return, as usual, after the break. Most children and young people will be looking forward to seeing their friends again and all may have a degree of worry/anxiety - this is a normal reaction to an unusual situation.

To support the return to school for the minority of families, children and young people who may find the transition more difficult, a coordinated temporary system has been put in place which involves early help services, education services and early intervention mental health service providers including our school nurses and the primary mental health work team. The system is set up to ensure that support is provided where appropriate; and that services work together to identify the best route of that support.

In the first instance, staff are asked to make full use of the suite of resources available on the *return to school padlet* (https://padlet.com/nies1/return_to_school/). The use of these resources will help to provide a structure intended to *prevent* extreme anxiety amongst children and young people and their families. Some of them also provide a degree of *early intervention*.

If you are still particularly concerned about an individual learner, the final section of the return to school padlet (https://padlet.com/nies1/managing_emotions_building_resilience/) has links to sources of further support. If needed, submit a referral form to the Return to School Hub. Over the summer holiday period, the forms will be collected, and support needs will be picked up by teams as appropriate. From September through to October half term, the forms will be discussed at a weekly multi-agency

meeting where all services are represented. This will eliminate children and young people being 'bounced' between services and support timely intervention. Where they are already known to services, those services will be alerted and will make an additional request for support.

Please note that this does not replace usual support mechanisms e.g. Early Help Hub. It is additional and should be used specifically about 'return to school' concerns. It is time limited, only intending to run until the end of October.

Schools with NQTs from September

If you have Newly Qualified Teachers from September please remember that:

- You need to sign up to an Appropriate Body.
- Your NQTs are entitled to further support through the Early Career Framework. Full details of what the ECF entails, and a list of the providers, is available [here](#). Although this is a pilot, and sign up is optional, the LA would *strongly encourage* you to do so and the DfE are expecting all schools to participate.

[Dave Cookson](#) can provide more details on the Appropriate Body or ECF if you require them.

PSHE from September 2020

A reminder that due to the coronavirus and closures, schools who are not in a position to implement the full statutory PSHE curriculum from September have been granted some leeway — and now have until Summer term 2021 to do so. Schools are encouraged to start from September if they are able to. The full statement from the DfE is [here](#).

PSHE resources, curated by Gill Finch, are available [here](#).

Mortal Fools Online Youth Theatre

Mortal Fools, who many of you will be aware of through *Melva*, are running an online youth theatre activity over the summer which is open to anybody aged 8-19 (School Years 4+) in Northumberland.

Participants will take part in online drama activities, rehearsals, and socially distanced recording sessions to help create an audio theatre walk which will be distributed widely for anybody to listen to, anywhere in the world.

Find attached a PDF of the flyer which provides more details:

<http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Online-Theatre-and-Drama-activities-Summer-Holidays-2020-with-clickable-links.pdf>