

Headteachers' Update

The Daily 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

Wider Opening Update

I am pleased to report that the number of children returning to school continued to rise this week. Last Monday saw our highest attendance to date, with 9436 children in schools, comprised of 3242 children of key workers, vulnerable or EHCP children and 6194 from the eligible age groups. A further 1273 attended pre-school provision this week.

This has been a tremendous effort by our schools over a prolonged period and I am aware that our headteachers, teachers and school staff are understandably exhausted. We could not have asked for any more from you and I am extremely grateful for the way you have tackled a situation that none of us could ever have been prepared for. Thank you.

****IMPORTANT** Local Authority Transition Funding**

Many of you have been in contact to discuss the possibilities around the proposed tuition and 'catch up' funding promised by the government. It would appear that some schools would like to get this work started as soon as possible and also help prepare key pupils for their full return to school in September. If this is your school, please consider the letter below that you can find at:

<http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/To-All-Headteachers-of-First-Primary-High-and-Secondary-Schools-re.-Transition-Funding.pdf>

DfE Updates

UPDATED: What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

The DfE has updated its information for parents and carers about the opening of early years providers, schools and colleges, safety in schools, attendance, transport, school meals and exams.

It includes an update to the transport section in the guidance for this summer term - 'What parents and carers need to know about nurseries, childminders, schools and colleges until August 2020'. These changes will ensure consistency with guidance from the Department for Transport.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak#history>

UPDATED: Coronavirus (COVID-19): financial support for education, early years and children's social care

This refers to the funding and financial support available for education, childcare and children's social care organisations.

It contains an updated overview of the early years, supply teachers in state-funded schools, independent schools, further education and apprenticeships and higher education sections.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-financial-support-for-education-early-years-and-childrens-social-care?utm_source=7e4c86f5-462d-4de5-9e95-09fa0caca828&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

UPDATED: School funding: exceptional costs associated with coronavirus (COVID-19)

This is an update to the guidance on the funding available to schools to support them with costs associated with coronavirus (COVID-19).

The DfE has added information about costs relating to the summer holidays that are not covered by the national voucher scheme, and ordering vouchers for the summer holidays.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-financial-support-for-schools>

UPDATED: Behaviour and discipline in schools

The DfE has updated its guidance on how school leaders and staff can develop a school behaviour policy, including checklists to support full school opening following the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

It has added a 'Checklist for school leaders to support full opening: behaviour and attendance'.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/behaviour-and-discipline-in-schools>

UPDATED: Relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education

The new curriculum will be compulsory from September 2020. Schools should start teaching from that date if they meet the statutory requirements. If they are not ready, or are unable to meet the requirements, they should begin teaching by at least the start of the summer term 2021.

The DfE has added a section on 'Implementing relationships education, relationships and sex education and health education 2020 to 2021'.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

UPDATED: Relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education: FAQs

The DfE has added a Q&A about teaching in September 2020 after the school closures to its information about the introduction of compulsory relationships education and RSE from September 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education-faqs>

Updated: Coronavirus (COVID-19): reducing burdens on educational and care settings

The DfE has updated its list of data collections, services or requests which will be cancelled, paused or will continue during the COVID19 pandemic.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-reducing-burdens-on-educational-and-care-settings>

Virtual SENCo Meeting

Last night, we held a very well attended SENCo meeting at which we presented reflections on the work that has been undertaken with regards to SEN learners across the County during the pandemic period to date. In addition, further detail of the Inclusive Education Services Offer was provided with links to video clips from individual teams. The SENCos also heard from Lisa Locke about the Kooth offer, and about the Pop-Up Return to School Hub. The presentation that was delivered can be accessed [here](#).

Please note that an updated brochure detailing the Inclusive Education Services offer will be circulated before the start of next term.

We will also clearer about the operational aspects of delivery in September, which will be influenced by the situation, and public health guidance. We are hopeful of delivering the service that is required to support schools, and learners with the full return.

DfE It Kit - Resources for Families

The team working on the DfE IT Kit Scheme has produced a set of resources for use by families. It contains details on staying safe online and how to access help if there is a problem with the device. There is also a copy of the letters sent to headteachers, parents and a copy of the loan agreement.

The resources are available via the Council website [here](#).

Parliamentary Education Select Committee

The Education Select Committee will be publishing its report on 'Examinations in 2020' next week.

The video / audio of the session where it took evidence on exam cancellations and calculated grades can be found [here](#).

The transcript of the session can be found [here](#).

Safe to Learn 10th July 2020

This week's edition of our schools' safeguarding bulletin, Safe to Learn, can be found at:

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Child-Families/Looked%20after%20children/Safe-to-Learn-Bulletin-Issue-45-10-07-20.pdf>