

# Headteachers' Update

## The Daily 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

### DfE Updates

#### SEN Legislation

The following message has been received from the DfE today:

'We would like to inform you that the notice modifying the duty on local authorities to secure or arrange the special educational and health care provision specified in children and young people's EHC plans will expire today.

This follows the Secretary of State's announcement on 2 July that, unless the evidence changes, we will not be issuing further national notices to modify this duty. Our focus will increasingly be on supporting local authorities, health commissioning bodies and education settings as they work towards full provision being restored for all children and young people with EHC plans.

The Regulations that we made to provide additional flexibility over the statutory timescales for various EHC needs assessment and plan processes remain in force and currently last until 25 September 2020 and we are keeping this under close review. We are expecting Ministers to decide next month how long the Regulations should remain in force.

We have taken the opportunity to publish a minor update to [Changes to the law on education, health and care needs assessments and plans due to coronavirus](#).

#### **UPDATED: Stay alert and safe: social distancing guidance for young people**

The most important thing we can do is to stay alert, control the virus, and in doing so, save lives.

This guidance has been updated to bring it in line with the most recent government guidance.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/stay-alert-and-safe-social-distancing-guidance-for-young-people?utm\\_source=e6f68a87-072e-47aa-9186-33943e92cfb3&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=daily](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/stay-alert-and-safe-social-distancing-guidance-for-young-people?utm_source=e6f68a87-072e-47aa-9186-33943e92cfb3&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily).

**UPDATED: Awarding qualifications in summer 2020** Information for schools, students and parents on how GCSE, AS, A level, vocational and technical qualifications will be graded and awarded in summer 2020.

The DfE has updated the VTQ guidance for centres and awarding organisation data information added. [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2020?utm\\_source=d229b11-a6a6-48d1-aa6c-88b59de740ea&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=daily](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2020?utm_source=d229b11-a6a6-48d1-aa6c-88b59de740ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily)

#### **NEW DATA: Permanent and fixed-period exclusions in England: 2018 to 2019**

The DfE has released the validated national data on levels of permanent and fixed-period exclusions by school type, including information on reasons for exclusions and exclusion review panels.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/permanent-and-fixed-period-exclusions-in-england-2018-to-2019>

#### **RELATED SCHOOLS WEEK ARTICLE**

'Rate of pupils being suspended from school hits 13-year high'

*The rate of pupils given fixed-term exclusions from school has risen for a fifth year running – with youngsters being handed repeat suspensions said*

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to be driving the increase. Government figures show the number of fixed-period exclusions has risen from 410,800 in 2017-18, up to 438,300 last year, a 7% increase.

The full Schools Week article can be found [here](#).

**UPDATED: Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation**

The DfE has updated its multi-agency guidelines on FGM for those with statutory duties to safeguard children and vulnerable adults.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-agency-statutory-guidance-on-female-genital-mutilation>

**THE GUARDIAN: Huge growth in free school meals urged to tackle food poverty crisis**

Up to 1.5 million more children in England should get free school meals to help tackle a growing crisis in food poverty and unhealthy eating, according to a new blueprint billed as the first national food strategy since second world war rationing. The government-commissioned report, by Leon restaurant co-founder Henry Dimbleby, said coronavirus had highlighted stark economic, health and nutritional inequalities likely to be made worse by the pandemic's economic fallout.

Read more from the [Guardian article here](#).