

Headteachers' Update

The Daily 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

Locality Headteacher Meeting Thursday 27th August, 9.00am

A further reminder that we will be holding a Locality Headteacher Meeting this Thursday coming, 27th August, at 9.00am. It will follow the usual format and will be chaired by the Interim Director of Education, Audrey Kingham. Please let Deborah Anderson (Deborah.Anderson01@northumberland.gov.uk) know who will be representing your locality.

This is an extremely important meeting, and I am hoping that we will have representation from Schools HR, Public Health and Health & Safety at the meeting.

The link to join is [here](#).

School Transport Update: the following letter has been sent to all schools today:

Dear Colleagues

Please find below links to two documents from the Council which we would be grateful if you could send to all parents and carers via your school's Parentmail service. The documents are:

1. A letter for parents setting out guidance and information regarding arrangements for students who use the Home to School Transport service
2. Guidance and information for students who use school transport.

The headteacher or principal of your school or academy has agreed that these documents can be sent out via parentmail to all parents and carers of students on roll at your establishment.

Therefore, we would be very grateful if you could forward the links to all parents and carers at the earliest opportunity ahead of the return of students next week, although we understand that most parents will not have children who use school transport.

Links to the documents below:

- [Guidance for parents of CYP using Home to School Transport](#)
- [Guide for students travelling on Home to School Transport](#)

When you send the documents to parents, can you please send them with the following message:

"Please find attached guidance and information for parents and carers whose children will be using the Council's Home to School Transport Service when they return in September. Read the guidance carefully and discuss the requirements within the letter with your child. Also enclosed is a guidance sheet for students travelling on home to school transport; please encourage your child to read this carefully where they are able to, or discuss the requirements within it with younger children. Thank you in advance for your assistance."

Attendance from September Guidance and Update

Advice from DfE, August 2020 DfE have now updated their guidance on how schools should use pupil registers and attendance codes in the academic year 2020-21. The full guidance is available here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907535/School_attendance_guidance_for_2020_to_2021_academic_year.pdf

The Northumberland Education Welfare Team has also produced guidance, which can be accessed here:

<http://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Education-Welfare-Register-coding-form-September-2020-3.pdf>

DfE School Reopening Materials

The DfE has made available a range of resources that can be used to by local authorities and schools to 'promote' the reopening of schools in September. You can find them all at the very bottom of this [page](#).

DfE / Northumberland IT Kit Scheme Update

The DfE IT Kit scheme was launched in April 2020 to provide IT kit to care leavers, children and young people aged 0 to 19 with a social worker and disadvantaged pupils who were in year 10 in the 2019 to 2020 academic year. Northumberland LA received 274 Microsoft laptops, 629 Chromebooks, 73 Tablets and 146 Routers - a total 1122 devices. These were distributed to 168 sites across the county. Academies ordered their own devices so the total number will be considerably higher.

For the 2020 to 2021 academic year, more laptops and tablets have been made available for disadvantaged children in certain year groups who are affected by disruption to face to face education at their school, or have been advised to shield because they are clinically extremely vulnerable. Again, academies can order their own devices, and the LA will work with maintained settings to ensure that eligible pupils receive the devices they require in a timely manner.

DfE UPDATES

DfE PRESS RELEASE: Statement from the UK Chief Medical Officers on schools and childcare reopening

Statement from the Chief Medical Officers and Deputy Chief Medical Officers of England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales on the evidence of risks and benefits to health from schools and childcare settings reopening.

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/statement-from-the-uk-chief-medical-officers-on-schools-and-childcare-reopening?utm_source=eaef57b3-67ff-4d70-91ba-99fff10d1fb5&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

DfE PRESS RELEASE: Study finds very low numbers of COVID-19 outbreaks in schools

Public Health England detected just 67 single cases and 30 outbreaks (defined as 2 or more linked cases) in schools across England in June.

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/study-finds-very-low-numbers-of-covid-19-outbreaks-in-schools?utm_source=01ce0967-35e6-401b-92c7-8d5c486b1fe3&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

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

Information for parents and carers about going back to schools, nurseries and colleges in the autumn term.

The DfE has added new information on school admissions. It has also updated the information on travelling to and from nursery, childminders, school and college, education, health and care (EHC) plans, wellbeing, online safety and assessment and exams.

<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>

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

List of data collections, services or requests which will be cancelled, paused or will continue.

The DfE has moved 'School Workforce Census' to the 'Data collections that will continue' section.

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

NEW: Early years support package to help close Covid language gap

The DfE has announced targeted funding for Reception pupils to help schools boost early language skills.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/early-years-support-package-to-help-close-covid-language-gap>

UPDATED GUIDANCE: Coronavirus (COVID-19) catch-up premium

What school leaders need to know about the catch-up premium and the National Tutoring Programme, including funding amounts and how funding should be spent.

The DfE has added information about the reception year early language programme.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-catch-up-premium>

DfE NEWS STORY: £8m programme to boost pupil and teacher wellbeing

Ahead of the full return to education in September, the DfE has launched a new training scheme to improve wellbeing and mental health support in schools and colleges.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/8m-programme-to-boost-pupil-and-teacher-wellbeing>

Message from the Corporate Health and Safety Team

With the start of the new term fast approaching, we thought it would be timely to provide further information on a few issues on which we've received queries from schools. Members of our team are available this week to answer any specific questions you may have.

Clinically Vulnerable(CV) and Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) school staff risk assessment

As you may have noticed, a link to a school specific model risk assessment for staff that fall into the above categories is now available for use by Heads. This should be completed for each staff member returning to work for the first time next week. Many of the control measures contained within your school Covid19 risk assessment are sufficient to reduce the risk of contracting Covid19 to a very low level, however, further reasonable adjustments should be applied wherever possible. This would include tasks which can be done at home, such as PPA, admin work etc. Remember, the model risk assessment should be tailored to record the specific arrangements in place for each individual. Support can be provided by your HR/Occupational Health provider as needed.

The Corporate Health and Safety Team can provide advice on specific queries, however, we are unable to sign off risk assessment or provide detailed comments due to current heavy service demands.

CV and CEV Pupils - model risk assessment

We've also produced a model risk assessment for CV/CEV pupils returning to school for the first time. For CV pupils, it is likely that the controls recorded in the school Covid19 risk assessment, in addition to the control measures detailed below in this model assessment, are sufficient to reduce the risk of contracting Covid19 to a very low level. Ensuring individual healthcare plans are up to date is a key control.

For CEV pupils, a separate risk assessment is likely to be required, especially for children with complex needs. This should cover aspects such as personal care requirements, including people handling, PPE needs of staff etc. Parents/school nurse/medical consultant should have input into the risk assessment as appropriate.

Model School Risk Assessment - version 3

Some very minor changes have been made to this document in relation to the issues discussed above. It's possible that further minor changes will be made, so please check the model risk assessment later this week.

As always, if you have any issues that we can provide support with, please contact a member of our team - Amanda Young, Nigel Chopping, Bryony Smith, John Froud or email:

healthandsafety@northumberland.gov.uk.