

# Headteachers' Update

For Schools and Academies

The DfE have published the second claim form for schools and academies to claim eligible exceptional costs relating to coronavirus (COVID-19) for the period March to July 2020:

<https://form.education.gov.uk/service/coronavirus-schools-fund-claim>

***This second claims window will run to 22 December and will be the final opportunity to submit a claim.***

Please read the guidance and instructions before completing the form:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/claiming-exceptional-costs-associated-with-coronavirus-covid-19>

## [Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

Page summary - What childcare services early years settings, childminders and local authorities need to provide during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Change made - Updated guidance on Ofsted inspections, parent and child groups, and local restriction tiers and contingency framework, and changed hyperlinks for 30 hours entitlement and tax-free childcare.

## [Guidance to support the summer 2021 exams](#)

Page summary - What schools, colleges and students need to know about taking GCSEs, AS and A levels and other qualifications in summer 2021.

Change made - First published.

## [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): school and college performance measures](#)

Page summary - Our approach to school and college accountability, performance tables and data during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Change made - Added 'Coronavirus (COVID-19): school and college accountability for the 2020 to 2021 academic year'.

## [Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak](#)

Page summary - What all schools will need to do during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak from the start of the autumn term.

Change made - Updated sections on 'Assessment and accountability', 'Contingency planning for remote education' (with a link to the contingency framework) and 'Self-isolation and shielding'.

## [Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings](#)

Page summary - List of critical workers (key workers) and vulnerable children and young people who can access full-time education provision in the case of future restrictions on education during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Change made - Updated to reflect the latest guidance on the contingency framework for education and childcare settings.

## [Get help with remote education](#)

Page summary - Access guidance, resources and support for teachers and school leaders on educating pupils and students during coronavirus (COVID-19).

Change made - First published.

### [Keeping children safe in out-of-school settings: code of practice](#)

Page summary - Safeguarding guidance for providers of activities, after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school settings.

Change made - Updated information on DBS checks for self-employed providers.

### [Changes to checks for EU sanctions on EEA teachers from 1 January 2021](#)

Page summary - How schools should carry out pre-employment checks on teachers coming from the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway (EEA) from 1 January 2021.

Change made - Added information about providing a letter of professional standing.

### [What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

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

Change made - Updated the information on primary assessments and GCSE and A Level exams in summer 2021, Ofsted inspections and exams for selective schools.

### **The End of the Return to School Pop Up Hub**

The Pop Up has been operating throughout the Autumn term and has received referrals for a total of 89 learners who have mostly, but not exclusively, been aged 11+. It has served a good purpose in supporting learners, their families and schools to improve attendance for those referred in by offering follow up services from across Education, Health and Social Care teams, where they were not already involved.

The Pop Up will stop taking referrals from the end of term. It has been extended from the original timescale of one half term to meet demand, but referrals are now slowing and is an appropriate time to return to business as usual for mental health support. Schools are invited to use the following routes:

- Primary Mental Health Work Team consultation line
- CYPS consultation line
- Northumberland Inclusive Education Services (NIES) Emotional Wellbeing and Behaviour Support Team
- Referrals into Locality Hubs

In January, the multiagency group previously operating via the Pop Up will continue to work together to look at the cohort of learners across Northumberland who have still not returned to school, but whose parents have not registered for Elective Home Education. We will be looking at what can be provided to support the reintegration of this group back into schools.

### **IMPORTANT – Schools Closing on 17<sup>th</sup> December**

Following on from the Government's announcement that they are allowing schools to start the Christmas Break a day early for pupils if they wish to do so, if your school/academy decides to be **closed to pupils on 18 December**, please inform the Council via [school.closures@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:school.closures@northumberland.gov.uk) at the earliest opportunity as this will have implications for school transport etc.

### **Thank you, Northumberland**

Please find information on the LA7 Behavioural Campaign [here](#).

You can also download assets to use on your own social media and websites for Northumberland [here](#)

### **Practicing safe celebrations and shopping this Christmas**

Christmas will look different for everyone this year. We want you and your families to enjoy it as much as you can whilst also staying safe.

You can find advice on practicing safe shopping and celebrations [here](#).

### [Digital postcard](#)

Please share this with your parents and carers. It has vital information about where to get help or extra support should they find they need it, as well as the guidance whilst we remain in Tier3.