

Headteachers' Update

For Schools and Academies

DfE Updates

New Guidance for Schools for January Opening

Guidance has been published today (7 January) and is available [here](#).

This guidance includes new information on:

- Attendance – including confirmation of who should attend (including in alternative provision and special schools) and how attendance should be recorded
- Testing – including confirmation that the testing programme can continue in secondary schools
- Workforce – including advice for those who are extremely clinically vulnerable
- Free School Meals
- Educational visits – confirmation that no visits should take place during this period
- Remote education – including further information on remote education expectations
- Accountability expectations – including inspections, exams and assessments

[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 - Removed tiered guidance information. The list of vulnerable children and children of critical workers remains the same.

[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges](#)

Page summary - Information for parents and carers about going back to schools, nurseries and colleges in January 2021.

Change made - Updated to reflect announcements about the phased return of secondary schools and colleges and the use of the contingency framework in some primary schools.

Time updated: 2:22pm, 31 December 2020

[Protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

Page summary - Protective measures for providers of community activities, holiday or after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school settings offering provision to children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Change made - Updated to reflect changes to the contingency framework and the January 2021 return to school guidance.

Time updated: 3:32pm, 31 December 2020

[Guidance for full opening: special schools and other specialist settings](#)

Page summary - What all special schools and other specialist settings will need to do during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Change made - Added 'Mass asymptomatic testing in specialist settings'.

Time updated: 5:49pm, 31 December 2020

Increasing data allowances on mobile devices to support disadvantaged children

This DfE scheme temporarily increases data allowances for mobile phone users on certain networks. This is so that children and young people can access remote education if their face-to-face education is disrupted.

Who can get help

Schools, trusts and local authorities can request mobile data increases for children and young people who:

- do not have fixed broadband at home
- cannot afford additional data for their devices
- are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education

For further details click [here](#).

Primary SATs for KS1 and KS2

The Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, has confirmed that they will not be proceeding with SATs (Key Stage 1 and 2) or Phonics Screening Checks for Year 1 this year.

Arrangements for the EYFS Profile have not been published and STA have said that arrangements will be confirmed as soon as possible.

DfE IT Kit Update

The DfE have announced this afternoon that first/primary schools will be asked to order their allocation of devices by 15 January. "Disadvantaged areas" will be prioritised in terms of delivery.

Most schools have already ordered their devices or contacted the DfE to book their devices. If you have not done this please contact [Dave Cookson](#) and he can support you.

Academies/free schools order directly so Dave hasn't got access to support you I'm afraid.

Accessing remote learning via Xbox/Playstation

Details of how pupils can access the internet via an Xbox/Playstation are available on the ecourier or [here](#).

As I understand it a keyboard is required to make this work. This might help increase uptake of remote learning.

Laptops for Kids North East

Northern Powerhouse Partnership are working with partners at Northumbrian Water, The Chronicle Newspaper, Rebuyer and WANdisco to launch Laptops for Kids North East. They are asking businesses across the North East region to donate unused laptops, PCs, tablets and chargers, which will then be professionally wiped before they are distributed out to families in need.

The LA have been asked to draw up a list of priority schools and provide the number of devices each school would need to ensure each pupil has an appropriate device. We will ask for this information next week, but if you could begin to collate that information we would be grateful.

School Transport during the Lockdown

School transport operators have been instructed to continue to operate each day this week and will probably be asked to do the same next week whilst the process continues within schools of identifying vulnerable children and children of key workers who need to attend school.

If schools have requests for school transport for such children please could you email:

- schooltransport@northumberland.gov.uk for mainstream schools
- sen.transport@northumberland.gov.uk for special schools

Eventually the home to school transport routes that are not transporting pupils will temporarily be stood down, however this will not be done whilst the picture remains unclear who requires transport.

Model Covid19 Risk Assessment – Version 4.5

This [document](#) has been revised to take account of two guidance document revisions from 23 and 30 December 2020, the recent move to national lockdown and references Covid testing in schools (a separate risk assessment is available relating to this). The changes made have been highlighted in red text within the document and are also recorded in the table at the end of the risk assessment. Schools are advised to review their current Covid control measures they have in place and update their risk assessment accordingly.

Please note – following on from revised guidance issued today (7 January), an additional review of the model risk assessment may be imminent.

As always, the Corporate Health and Safety Team are available to discuss any specific queries you may have regarding the Covid19 arrangements in place within your school. Please speak to a member of the team (Amanda Young, John Froud, Nigel Chopping or Bryony Smith) or email healthandsafety@northumberland.gov.uk

Covid19 Testing Programme in Schools – Model Risk Assessment - Version 1

A [model risk assessment](#) has been developed to assist Head's with the delivery of the Covid19 lateral flow testing programme within their establishment. This assessment is based on the documentation provided by the [DfE and NHS](#). Headteacher's will need to ensure this document is amended to reflect the arrangements at their establishment and may wish to signpost to any other relevant procedures they have in place. It is important that any staff members or volunteers involved in the testing programme are trained in line with national programme requirements and that robust record keeping is maintained in relation to on-line and practical training undertaken.

Please note – following on from revised guidance for schools issued today (7 January), an additional review of this model risk assessment may be needed.

Active Northumberland Schools at Home

Active Northumberland Schools at Home have three YouTube videos available. They are an online resource for children working remotely, require no equipment and are led by Active Northumberland instructors.

The links are as follows:

8-12s - <https://youtu.be/wGF-ahJ11oA>
13-16's - <https://youtu.be/btEjeYDRz3E>
Dance - <https://youtu.be/ihghJ-e4k9Y>

They are also in the process of putting together a virtual School Games county challenge/competition which will be shared with you at a later date.

Northumberland Inclusive Education Services

The Teams offering specialist support for learners with SEN (SEN specific Teams, Portage, EAL and Educational Psychology) have reverted to a virtual offer for the time being in light of the pressures on schools and settings, and the need to revisit risk assessments and ensure the wellbeing of our school communities and staff. Referrals to the teams can go ahead in the usual way, and every effort will be made to support you as you work with your vulnerable learners in the current situation. We will be reviewing this position at the end of next week ie 15th January.

Please feel free to contact Team managers if you have any queries/concerns:

- Fiona.Tarn@northumberland.gov.uk (High Incidence Needs Teams)
- Allison.Cox@northumberland.gov.uk (Low Incidence Needs Teams)
- Paula.Hesford@northumberland.gov.uk or katinka.Bryan@northumberland.gov.uk (Psychological Services)

Alternatively, contact

Nicola.Taylor@northumberland.gov.uk (Head of Inclusive Education Services).

Admissions Consultation

In accordance with our statutory duty under The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulation 2012, Northumberland County Council is consulting on proposed school admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools 2022/2023.

Please find the relevant documents in the link below:

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/School-admissions-places-appeals-1/Admission-arrangements.aspx>

The consultation closes on 14th Jan 2021.