

Headteachers' Update

The 5 O'Clock Update For Schools

Changes to the School Admissions Code

Last year the government consulted on changes to the School Admissions Code (the Code). The new Code and associated regulations have been laid in parliament and subject to parliamentary procedure they will come into force 1st September 2021.

The main purpose of these changes is to improve support for the in-year admission of vulnerable children. The changes include introducing more detail on the process for managing in-year admissions; changes to improve the effectiveness of Fair Access Protocols; giving children adopted from state care outside of England equal admissions priority as children who were previously looked after in England (see attached guidance note); and clarification of which address to use for the admission of service or crown servant children.

There are also further minor clarification changes. Here are the links to the [draft Code](#) as laid in parliament, the [supporting regulations](#), the [Explanatory Memorandum](#) and the [consultation response](#).

Please pay particular regard to paragraphs 1.7, 2.21, 2.23, 2.24, 2.26, 2.27, 2.30, 3.17 and 3.21 in the draft code.

Admission authorities must comply with the Code. If you have any queries/questions please email Jill.Atkinson@northumberland.gov.uk.

Face Coverings on School Transport

Whilst pupils will no longer be required to wear face coverings in schools it is still mandatory for face coverings to be worn on dedicated school transport and all forms of public transport. Can you please remind your child(ren) that this remains the case for now and the foreseeable future

Every school with Reception class offered early language training

The DfE have announced that every school in England with a Reception class will be offered expert training in early language and communication. For more information, please click on this [link](#).

Important Early Years Transition Information

As we approach the half term break in the summer term, all partners in the Early Years sector are planning for the effective transition of our youngest children from their current provision into the Reception class in school. We know everyone is keen to make this transition as seamless as possible to ensure that you are as well-prepared for and knowledgeable about, the children starting with you in September.

The local authority continues to support this process with an aim to ensure that the information you receive about children from their current provision is high-quality, consistent and easily accessible. The main tool for supporting high quality transition is the Northumberland School Readiness Passport. We are asking all early years providers to use the transfer function within the Passport to enable you to have full access to all the relevant information. This includes assessments as to whether the child is deemed on track or not to be Reception ready and also a good degree of SEND information where appropriate.

To support the development and quality assurance of this process all schools should ensure that their early years staff have activated their Northumberland School Readiness Passport accounts and are familiar with the system enabling them to accept the children being transferred and have access to this invaluable information.

You should not expect to receive transition information about children in any other format and there is no need to request transition information to be sent in any other way. The Northumberland School Readiness Passport is the local authority's recommended method for sharing of information. Most schools and settings are already involved in the programme. With the involvement of every school and setting we will have a system in place with many benefits for all learners and their families. A full enrolment of the Passport will also further support future development and the accuracy of the information it holds. There will be a full review of the process in the autumn term. Comments from all participants will be sought, compiled and used for improvement purposes.

If you have any queries or questions about the Northumberland School Readiness Passport and/or would like support in accessing your account, please contact your locality Early Years Consultant who will be able to offer you support.

School Furniture and Equipment

There is a range of furniture and equipment in good condition available to view and collect for free at Richard Coates C of E Primary School, Ponteland.

The School will have open days on Wednesday 26th May and Thursday 27th May between 9.30am - 4.00pm. To arrange a visit or for further information regarding collection, please contact David Clay at Richard Coates CofE Primary School, Email:d.clay@peletrust.org.uk.