

Executive Summary of the DfE and Ofsted Publications

Existing Publications

Updated	Changes made	Useful Links/Document
9:30am, 19 April 2021	Added data for weeks beginning 22 March and 29 March 2021.	Reported coronavirus (COVID-19) notifications by registered early years and childcare settings - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
3:30pm, 19 April 2021	Clarified that we have published updated versions of the education inspection framework handbooks.	Ofsted: coronavirus (COVID-19) rolling update - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
3:30pm, 19 April 2021	Edits throughout: please see 'Summary of changes' for more information.	Early years inspection handbook - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
9:44am, 20 April 2021	Added 'School governance update: April 2021'.	School governance update - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
10:32am, 20 April 2021	Updated as inspections of early years providers resume on 4 May, the disapplication to the early years foundation stage profile are in force (and no longer subject to parliamentary approval), and paediatric first aid practitioners must attend requalification training to renew expired certificates.	Early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
10:38am, 20 April 2021	We have added a section on funded course extensions for 2020 to 2021 trainees and information on how trainees should be recommended for early years teacher status. We have updated information on the immigration permission for trainees from the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland and using the get school experience service. We have also removed the section on funded course extensions for 2019 to 2020 trainees and content relating to ITT 2020 recruitment.	Coronavirus (COVID-19): initial teacher training (ITT) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
10:38am, 20 April 2021	Added 'Coronavirus (COVID-19) ITT course extensions funding manual: academic year 2020/21' and 'ITT course extensions trainee information template 2020/21'.	Funding: ITT coronavirus (COVID-19) course extensions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
12:00pm, 20 April 2021	Added 'Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus	Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

	(COVID-19) outbreak: 23 March 2020 to 15 April 2021'.	
1:59pm, 20 April 2021	Updated 'Other qualifications' section to clarify how to award functional skills qualifications and English for Speakers of Other Languages Skills for Life.	Awarding qualifications in summer 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
3:50pm, 20 April 2021	We have updated the advice on the use of face coverings and asymptomatic testing to ensure it is consistent with the advice to schools and further education colleges.	Transport to school and other places of education: 2020 to 2021 academic year - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
5:01pm, 22 April 2021	Edited to clarify current guidance and to be more reader-friendly.	What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during COVID-19 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
6:35pm, 22 April 2021	Updated to explain when schools and FE providers may provide PCR test kits to staff or students who are showing symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) and how they can order further PCR tests for symptomatic testing.	Coronavirus (COVID-19): test kits for schools and FE providers - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

New Publications:

Publication date	Content	Useful Links/Document
11:00am, 21 April 2021	We are seeking views on the proposed guidance as part of the general qualifications alternative awarding framework.	Consultation on guidance in relation to appeals under the GQAA framework in 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
11:00am, 21 April 2021	We are seeking views on proposed guidance on reviews and appeals as part of the General Qualifications Alternative Awarding regulatory framework.	Proposed guidance on 2021 appeals published - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
10:00am, 22 April 2021	Ofqual publishes changes due to the extension of legacy English and mathematics Functional Skills qualifications.	Functional Skills qualifications conditions, requirements and guidance updated - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
5:56am, 26 April 2021	The Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Girls' Education, Helen Grant MP, visited Uganda to see the work the UK is doing to help girls access quality education.	UK Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Girls' Education visits Uganda - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

DfE Updates

National survey of children, The Big Ask, launches today

- The new Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has today launched [The Big Ask](#) – the largest ever consultation with children aged 4 to 17 in England. It aims to find out children's concerns and aspirations about the future, so that we can put children at the heart of our country's recovery from the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.
- All schools are encouraged to support their pupils to [complete this survey](#). A range of [teaching resources](#) have also been produced, including lesson plans and activity packs, to help teachers incorporate this into their lessons.
- Parents, care leavers and those working with children are also invited [to complete the adult survey](#) to share their views about the future for children and young people today, and what they think is holding young people back.
- The results from this survey will help the Children's Commissioner identify the barriers preventing children from reaching their potential, put forward solutions and set ambitious goals for the country to achieve.

Information for clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) staff returning to the workplace

We know that after a period of shielding, the transition back to the workplace may leave some staff feeling anxious.

- ***Shielding advice was paused nationally from Wednesday 31 March.*** CEV staff in education and childcare settings are advised that if it's possible for you to fulfil your role from home, you should continue to work remotely. If you cannot work from home, you should return to the workplace.
- If you are feeling anxious about this change, we encourage you to speak to your headteacher, head of setting, or principal about the safety measures in place. You can also access resources to support your mental health and wellbeing, including [Mentally Healthy Schools](#), [Headspace for Educators](#) and a free 24-hour helpline offered by [Education Support](#).

Updated guidance for early years and childcare providers

- On Tuesday 13 April we updated our [guidance for early years and childcare providers](#) to include information on singing in parent and child groups, educational trips, and for staff and children who are clinically extremely vulnerable.

Updated guidance on providing school meals during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

- We have updated our guidance on [providing school meals during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#) to provide information on the COVID Local Support Grant being run by local authorities in England.
- This grant will cover the period from Saturday 17 April 2021 to Sunday 20 June 2021 and is further to the £229 million COVID Winter Grant Scheme, in place between November 2020 and Friday 16 April 2021.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccinations for eligible staff in education and childcare settings

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccines are the best way to protect people from the virus and will save thousands of lives. We welcome the support of education and childcare settings in encouraging vaccine take up and enabling staff who are eligible for a vaccination to attend booked vaccine appointments where possible.
- The vaccines have been through the same regulatory approval process as any medicines to ensure they meet strict safety standards and offer high levels of protection. They were tested on thousands of people of different ages, ethnic backgrounds and with different health conditions before being approved. The vaccine cannot give you coronavirus (COVID-19) and will reduce your chance of becoming seriously ill. Some people may experience side effects from the vaccine – if you do, most of these are mild and short-term, lasting no longer than a week (but usually much less).
- The Department of Health and Social Care has published a [blog covering frequently asked questions about coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccines answered by Professor Jonathan Van-Tam](#). We encourage you to read the blog for further information and to answer any questions you or your staff may have about the vaccination.

Travelling to school and college safely

It is likely that the roads and public transport system will be busier than when students returned in March, given other businesses have reopened. As part of your ongoing communications with your pupils and their parents, you may wish to share the following messages on how pupils can travel to and from school safely:

- if you live a short distance from your school or college, walk, cycle or scoot to and from school wherever it is possible and safe to do so
- avoid sharing a car with anyone outside of your household or support bubble
- if you are using public transport to get to school or college, plan ahead and allow more time for your journey
- when you are travelling by public or dedicated school transport, don't forget to:
 - wear a face covering (unless you are exempt – including if you are aged 11 and under). It is important you wear them for the entirety of your journey, including inside a bus or train station
 - social distance where possible

- wash or sanitise your hands regularly
- be considerate to fellow passengers and staff.

Further information can be found in our [guidance on transport to school and other places of education](#). The Department for Transport has also created [resources](#) that can be downloaded and used by education settings to promote safe travel to school.

All schools, colleges and nurseries coronavirus (COVID-19) LFD test kit log: change of retention period

- All schools, colleges and nurseries keeping a coronavirus (COVID-19) LFD test kit log ***should not keep the data in the log for longer than 12 months from the date on which it is collected.*** Please note that the Department of Health and Social Care may request data from the test kit log at any time within the 12-month period.
- Further information can be found in the terms and conditions for coronavirus (COVID-19) testing located on the [primary schools document sharing platform](#) and the [schools and colleges document sharing platform](#).

Coronavirus (COVID-19) test kit delivery schedule for all provider types

- An updated test kit delivery schedule has been published on the schools and colleges document sharing platforms. The delivery schedule covers deliveries planned between Monday 19 and Friday 23 April and will provide you with a delivery date and expected quantity of coronavirus (COVID-19) test kits. An updated delivery schedule will be published on the schools and colleges document sharing platform each week.
- If you are receiving a delivery of home test kits, please be aware that, dependent on local supply levels, you may receive boxes containing 7 test kits instead of 3 test kits. If you receive boxes of 7 test kits, then 1 pack of 7 should be given to each staff member or student. If you receive boxes of 3 test kits, then 2 packs of 3 should be given to each staff member or student.
- The delivery schedule for private, voluntary and independent (PVI) nurseries, maintained nurseries and primary schools is available on the [primary schools document sharing platform](#).
- The delivery schedule for secondary schools, further education colleges, independent training providers and adult community learning providers is available on the [secondary schools document sharing platform](#).

Face-to-face summer schools for secondary schools

- As part of the wider recovery package to support children with their mental health and wellbeing and to catch up on missed face-to-face learning, the Department for Education is providing £200m to enable as many secondary schools as possible to deliver face-to-face summer schools this year.
- You will be able to identify the pupils who would most benefit from summer school. We recommend a focus on incoming year 7 pupils, giving those pupils an opportunity to

build a community with their new classmates and teachers and familiarise themselves with their new school environment.

- Funding is calculated based on 50% of your year 7 cohort being offered a place on a two-week programme, or 100% of the cohort being offered a week-long programme, and equates to £597 per two-week place (£1,791 for pupils in special schools or units and alternative provision). Each school's individual [funding allocation](#) has now been published.

Shortly, we will ask you to complete a simple sign-up form to indicate if your school intends to take part. We will then ask you to confirm your plans in June.

Further information is available in our [guidance on summer schools](#) and any questions should be directed to learning.recovery@education.gov.uk

Catching up on missed school immunisation programmes

- We recognise all the effort schools have been making to protect children and teachers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Alongside this, it is also crucial to catch up on school-aged childhood immunisation programmes, such as MMR (measles, mumps and rubella), Meningitis, the School Leavers Booster and HPV (human papillomavirus), which were paused initially during the period where schools were closed for on-site teaching to most pupils. Keeping up to date with routine vaccinations is essential in preventing severe disease outbreaks, ongoing health complications and even death in some instances for children, young people, their families, teachers and the wider population's health.
- Providers will be running catch up programmes to ensure that pupils who missed out on their vaccines receive these as soon as possible. We encourage you to continue engaging with, and supporting, your local immunisation providers to deliver routine school-aged immunisation programmes on-site, ensuring these are delivered in line with your school's control measures. Age groups which became eligible for the programmes in 2020/21 must be offered their vaccinations between now and the end of the summer term in school to maximise uptake.

Further information on which vaccinations are offered in schools is available in the [NHS guide to vaccinations and when to have them](#).

Reminder – Claims window open for free school meals additional costs

- The claims window to [claim for additional costs](#) incurred from providing free school meals is currently open. ***It will close at 23:59 on Tuesday 4 May.*** Schools can claim directly, or local authorities and academy trusts can claim on their schools' behalf.
- You can claim for additional costs incurred from providing locally sourced vouchers to pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals between Monday 4 January and Friday 5 March 2021, when schools were closed to most pupils. You can also claim for lunch parcels provided during this period and up until the start of the Easter holidays.
- Claims can only be made for support that was provided to eligible pupils over the specified period and to the values stated in the [guidance](#). ***Claims should not be made in relation to support provided through the Edenred national voucher scheme,***

as those costs have already been met centrally by the Department for Education.
All claims made will be cross-referenced with orders made using the national voucher scheme.

Further information on claiming for additional costs can be found in the [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) free school meals additional costs](#) guidance.

Subsidised tutoring available from the National Tutoring Programme for schools

- All state-maintained schools can access tutoring subsidised by 75% through the [National Tutoring Programme \(NTP\)](#), to support pupils aged 5-16 who need extra help. The NTP aims to ensure that high quality tutoring is available in all parts of the country to disadvantaged pupils who need the most support.
- Schools can [search for approved NTP tuition partners](#) and enquire directly with providers. This includes specialist provision for supporting students with SEND: 26 out of the 33 providers can support students with SEND, and 17 providers are able to support students in special school settings.

To see NTP in action, please see our [latest school story](#).

The NTP is running information webinars for all state-maintained schools, where you can hear directly from Tuition Partner organisations and learn about the subsidy:

[Monday 26 April at 4pm – alternative provision sector webinar](#)

[Tuesday 27 April at 4pm – Yorkshire and the Humber webinar](#)

Updated guidance for initial teacher training providers

- We have updated our [guidance for providers of initial teacher training \(ITT\)](#) to include information on funded course extensions for 2020/21 trainees and information on how trainees should be recommended for early years teacher status.

Ofsted inspections to resume for registered early years providers

- Ofsted will resume on-site inspections of registered early years providers under the education inspections framework from Tuesday 4 May. To support this return, they have updated the [early years inspection handbook for Ofsted registered provision](#).

Reminder for schools and colleges to submit the daily educational setting status form

- Schools and colleges are asked to resume completing the [educational setting status form](#). Please complete the form daily by 2pm.

Further guidance on completing the educational setting status form can be found in the [guidance on recording attendance during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#).

Updated guidance on awarding qualifications in summer 2021

- We have updated our [guidance on awarding qualifications in summer 2021](#) to provide clarity on how to award functional skills qualifications and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Skills for Life.

Regular asymptomatic coronavirus (COVID-19) testing remains vital

The Prime Minister has said: “I want to thank everybody for continuing to follow the guidance, and to thank parents and families for the incredible work you’re doing to help test pupils through the Easter holidays and to encourage you to keep testing them twice a week as schools return.”

- It is vital that staff and students continue to test twice weekly in order to identify asymptomatic cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) and prevent the spread of the virus. Please use your communications channels such as newsletters, text reminders, emails and website notifications to continually reinforce this message. Parents and students are much more likely to see and respond to messages sent directly to them, so please keep repeating it.

[A poster is available for you to download](#) which we hope will be a simple, clear tool that you can use to remind pupils about the importance of regular testing.

Re-introduction of confirmatory PCR testing for positive lateral flow device tests at assisted testing sites in schools and colleges

- At the end of March, NHS Test and Trace reintroduced confirmatory PCR testing for positive lateral flow device (LFD) tests conducted at all assisted testing sites, including schools or colleges. This means that all staff, pupils and students who get a positive LFD test, whether at home or supervised at their school or college, should get a confirmatory PCR. The PCR test should be booked immediately either online or by calling 119 and should be undertaken within 2 days of the positive LFD result.
- Staff, students and pupils who had a positive LFD test result, and their close contacts and other members of their household, should self-isolate immediately in line with [NHS Test and Trace guidance](#) and while awaiting the PCR result. If the PCR test is negative, it overrides the LFD test and the staff, pupil or student can return to school or college, and their close contacts can also end their self-isolation.

Test kit delivery schedules for schools and colleges

- Delivery schedules for the week commencing Monday 26 April are due to be published on the document sharing platforms shortly. Please await publication of these prior to contacting us in relation to expected timescale for receipt of deliveries.
- The delivery schedule for primary schools will be available on the [primary schools document sharing platform](#).
- The delivery schedule for secondary schools, further education colleges, independent training providers and adult community learning providers will be available on the [secondary schools document sharing platform](#).

Internet Watch Foundation campaign launched to raise awareness of “self-generated” child sexual abuse material

- In the last year, [“self-generated” child sexual abuse imagery](#) has increased by 77% and is a third of all child sexual abuse material identified and removed from the internet. These included images of girls aged 11 to 13 whose abuse had been recorded via a webcam in a domestic setting.
- To help prevent the creation of this type of abusive imagery, a campaign has been launched by the [Internet Watch Foundation](#) (IWF) backed by the Home Office and Microsoft. It aims to help raise awareness of this type of criminality among parents and carers of young teens, empower and educate girls aged 11 to 13+ to spot the techniques used by sexual predators and give them the knowledge to Block, Report, Tell someone they trust.
- ***It is a national campaign running from Wednesday 21 April for six weeks.*** You can find out more on the [IWF website](#), as well as specific sites for [parents](#) and [young people](#).

Please share this information with parents and carers in your network.

Message from DfE:

As you all return to the classroom after the Easter break, we are providing an update on the increasing level of interest in and news coverage of the distressing testimonials posted on the Everyone’s Invited website.

Sexual abuse, sexual violence and sexual harassment in any form are abhorrent and it is vital that reports of abuse are appropriately investigated and victims supported and protected.

We know that the majority of schools and colleges take their safeguarding responsibilities extremely seriously but the Everyone’s Invited campaign has reminded us that there is more we need to do.

You will now be aware that on 31 March, the Secretary of State announced that he has asked Ofsted to undertake a thematic review into sexual abuse across state and independent schools and colleges. Amongst other things the review will look at whether schools and colleges have appropriate processes in place to allow pupils to report concerns freely, knowing these will be taken seriously and dealt with swiftly and appropriately.

Ofsted has recently published its Terms of Reference and further information can be viewed here: [Ofsted review of sexual abuse in schools-terms of reference](#). The review will include a number of research visits that Ofsted will carry out. In some schools, where it is appropriate, Ofsted and the Independent Schools Inspectorate will visit together. The review will not report on individual schools and colleges but instead present a picture of good and poor practice across the country and make recommendations for improvement. We are encouraging you to fully engage with the review if your school or college is visited as part of this important research. The review will conclude by the end of May 2021.

A dedicated NSPCC helpline is now available to support anyone who has experienced sexual abuse in educational settings or has concerns about someone or the issues

raised. The dedicated NSPCC helpline number is 0800 136 663 and more information is available at: [Dedicated helpline for victims of abuse in schools NSPCC](#).

Our statutory safeguarding guidance and departmental advice are very clear on schools' and colleges' legal duties and the policies and processes that should already be in place to safeguard children. These resources should help you handle and respond appropriately to any reports of abuse in your school or college.

In particular, Part 5 of [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) (KCSIE) provides schools and colleges with detailed guidance about child-on-child sexual violence and sexual harassment, including responding to reports of abuse and protecting victims. Part 5 also signposts to the wider specialist support that is available.

Alongside this, our [sexual-violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges advice](#) supports schools and colleges to understand what child-on-child sexual violence and sexual harassment looks like, how to prevent it, how to respond to reports of it, and how to support victims.

We wanted to take this opportunity to confirm that we will pause publishing revised KCSIE and sexual violence advice, following the recent public consultation, until after Ofsted report at the end of May.

[Working together to safeguard children](#) is very clear on how schools and colleges should work with their local multi-agency children's partnerships as a relevant agency and how any concerns about a child should be referred. Do look to contact your local multi-agency children's partnership for further advice and support.

The curriculum for Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) became mandatory from September 2020. Recently published [schools coronavirus \(COVID-19\) operational guidance](#) clarified that schools may choose to focus this year's RSHE teaching on the immediate needs of their pupils, such as being safe, and staying healthy, introducing a more comprehensive RSHE programme in September 2021.

In teaching the new RSHE curriculum, schools must have regard to the [statutory guidance](#) which will ensure that children understand what positive, healthy and respectful relationships look like, on and offline. Domestic violence, rape, harassment and abuse are explicitly taught about in the 'Being Safe' topic, as part of relationships education. Schools should teach pupils the knowledge they need to recognise and report abuse, including emotional, physical and sexual abuse. To support teachers to deliver these topics safely and with confidence, a [one-stop page](#) has been published for teachers, including non-statutory implementation guidance '[Plan your Relationships, Sex and Health Education Curriculum](#)' and [teacher training modules](#), developed with subject matter experts and teachers. Each module covers safeguarding to make sure teachers, pastoral staff and the designated safeguarding lead are equipped to deal with sensitive discussions and potential disclosures.

We always have and will continue to take these matters very seriously. The Everyone's Invited campaign has rightly served to focus our minds on the need to continue to work together to protect children.