

Executive Summary of the DfE and Ofsted Publications

Existing Publications

Updated	Changes made	Useful Links/Document
10:00am, 26 April 2021	Added a link to the sign-up form so schools can register their intent to run a summer school, and a link to the funding allocations for eligible secondary schools.	Summer schools programme - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
10:30am, 27 April 2021	Guidance updated 22 April to include details of the evidence that exam boards will be expecting, and the timescales teachers need to work to.	Submission of teacher assessed grades, summer 2021: info for teachers - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
12:00pm, 27 April 2021	Added 'Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak: 23 March 2020 to 22 April 2021'.	Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
4:29pm, 27 April 2021	Updated information on carrying funding forward beyond this academic year and Ofsted monitoring.	Catch-up premium: coronavirus (COVID-19) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
4:49pm, 27 April 2021	Exam centre responsibility for students retaking qualifications from summer 2020' has been updated to explain responsibility for entering students for exams or alternative arrangements to exams and how the cost of fees will be covered.	Responsibility for exams - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
1:00pm, 28 April 2021	Added 'Vulnerable children and young people survey: waves 1 to 22'.	Vulnerable children and young people survey - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
12:00pm, 30 April 2021	Added 'Education Act 2005: cancellation of school inspection disapplication notice April 2021' and 'Education Act 2005: school inspection disapplication notice May 2021'.	Disapplication notice: school inspections legislation changes - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

New Publications:

Publication date	Content	Useful Links/Document
10:30am, 27 April 2021	Ofqual updates 'Submitting data and evidence' section of heads of centre guidance.	Ofqual confirms detail on submitting grades and evidence for this year's GCSE, AS and A level grades - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
12:00pm, 27 April 2021	Attendance in education settings since Monday 23 March 2020 and early years settings since Thursday 16 April 2020.	Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak: 23 March 2020 to 22 April 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
1:39pm, 29 April 2021	DfE supported disadvantaged children and young people by procuring technology to help them access remote education and social	The Department for Education (DfE)'s Get Help with Technology programme - Case study - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

	care during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.	
2:58pm, 29 April 2021	Ian Bauckham CBE's speech to the Confederation of School Trusts annual conference, on the topic of assessment in 2021.	Ian Bauckham CBE's speech to the Confederation of School Trusts annual conference - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
12:39pm, 26 April 2021	In the 'Maintained schools and academies' section under 'Current activity', clarified situations when we may deem the section 8 monitoring visit to be a section 5 inspection.	Ofsted: coronavirus (COVID-19) rolling update - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

DfE Updates

Sign-up now open for face-to-face summer schools

- We said last week that £200m of funding is available for secondary schools' summer school transition arrangements for their incoming year 7 pupils and other pupils who would benefit. Each school's individual [funding allocation](#) has now been published.
- You can now [sign-up for the programme](#) to indicate you intend to run a summer school. Sign-up is open until 23:59 on Friday 7 May and the process takes no more than a couple of minutes.
- ***We will ask you to confirm your plans in June.*** In September, you will be asked to confirm that the summer school has taken place and provide information on the pupils who took part. Funding will then be provided.

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

Coronavirus (COVID-19) test kit delivery schedules for schools and colleges

- Please check the published delivery schedule prior to contacting the helpline in relation to expected timescales for receipt of deliveries. Please wait for 48 hours after a scheduled delivery date before contacting the helpline.
- The delivery schedule for primary schools and maintained nurseries 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](#).

Correct use of Assisted Test Site (ATS) test kits

- Some schools and colleges have issued lateral flow device (LFD) test kits designated for ATS on-site testing to pupils and workforce for at home testing. **ATS test kits**

should not be repurposed for home use and home test kits will continue to be made available.

- If you are running low on home test kits, please check the latest delivery schedule on the document sharing platforms to see if there is a delivery scheduled. 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](#). If you cannot see a scheduled delivery for your establishment, or are likely to run out of test kits before the expected delivery date, please contact our helpline on 0800 046 8687 and ask for us to arrange an emergency replenishment.

The use of schools as polling stations in the forthcoming election period

- The Government has confirmed that local elections will go ahead on Thursday 6 May. Given significant disruptions already to education this year, Returning Officers have been asked to avoid using schools as polling stations, where practically possible. In exceptional circumstances, where schools are used as polling stations, we have asked that Returning Officers work with schools to minimise any disruption.
- Pupils eligible to attend on Thursday 6 May should continue to do so. However, if necessary, for the safe operation of polling stations and to limit risks to staff and pupils, schools may ask some pupils not to attend, and arrange non-contact provision on Thursday 6 May. ***On-site provision should still be available to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers on election day and appropriate safeguarding measures should be put in place.*** Schools should not close to pupils on Friday 7 May.
- In a letter to Returning Officers and schools, we have set out the detail of additional funding made available to local authorities to help Returning Officers avoid disruption to schools and cover the costs of cleaning, including any cleaning taking place after polls close, ***so that those schools can be open to pupils the following day.*** The following steps should be taken before schools resume use of their whole estate:
 - ventilating any rooms used for polling, via full window and door opening to fresh outside air for at least 1 hour
 - after ventilation, sanitising all hand touchpoints (for example door handles, rails and seats)

Ministers from the Department for Education and the Cabinet Office have published [a letter to all schools and Returning Officers setting out expectations for the forthcoming elections](#).

Get help with technology – support for schools with Apple devices

- To help support schools get the most out of their devices, Apple are running a four-part online series to maximise their functionality to aide teaching methods and learning. Sessions include Elements of Deployment, Apple School Manager, Deploy and Manage Apple Device and Teacher Tools.
- ***The sessions will run from 12pm to 1pm on Tuesday 18 May, Wednesday 19 May, Tuesday 25 May and Wednesday 26 May.***

Further information can be found on the [Apple website](#).

Visiting therapists and other health professionals to support those with special educational needs and disability (SEND)

- Given the importance of therapists (e.g. speech and language, physiotherapy, occupational therapy) and other health professionals in supporting children and young people with SEND, we would like to remind settings of ***the published guidance for [schools](#) and [further education](#) which makes clear that specialists, therapists, clinicians and other support staff for pupils and students with SEND should provide interventions as usual.*** They can move between settings but should ensure that they minimise contact and maintain as much distance as possible from other staff. Such specialists will be aware of the PPE most appropriate for their role.
- We encourage you to work collaboratively with your local authority, Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and health providers, as well as with young people and their families, to ensure that children and young people with SEND have access to appropriate therapies and support.
- ***You can use the AY 20/21 catch-up premium, the AY 21/22 recovery premium and pupil premium funding to support disadvantaged children and young people's wider needs if required.***
- The [Education Endowment Foundation \(EEF\) coronavirus \(COVID-19\) support guide](#) is clear that interventions, including those focused on aspects of learning such as behaviour or pupils' social and emotional needs, are likely to be important to support those who have fallen furthest behind.

Have your say and help shape the Department for Education's future school policy on education recovery

- On behalf of the Department for Education, [Ipsos MORI](#), an independent research organisation, is conducting research in partnership with Sheffield Hallam University and the Centre for Education and Youth about how schools are supporting pupils' learning in the context of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

We would like to hear from primary and secondary school leaders across the country to better understand:

- schools' strategies for recovery
- the challenges faced
- future needs for responding to coronavirus (COVID-19) and supporting pupils' learning.

If your school has received an invitation, please do take part in this anonymous survey which will take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

For further information please contact us at SRSstudy@ipsos.com.

National Tutoring Programme – Subsidised Tutoring Available

- All state-maintained schools can access tutoring subsidised by 75% through the National Tutoring Programme (NTP), to support pupils (aged 5 to 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 to catch up.
- Schools can [search for approved NTP Tuition Partners](#) and enquire directly with providers. This includes specialist provision for supporting students with SEND. 26 of our 33 providers are able to support students with SEND including 17 providers who are able to support students in special school settings.

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

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

- DfE catch-up webinar – [Tuesday 4 May at 4pm](#)

Updated guidance on exam centre responsibility for students retaking qualifications from summer 2020

- We have updated our guidance on [exam centre responsibility for students retaking qualifications from summer 2020](#) to explain responsibility for entering students for exams or alternative arrangements to exams and how the cost of fees will be covered.

Updated guidance on the catch-up premium

- We have updated the [catch-up premium: coronavirus \(COVID-19\) guidance](#) to provide information on carrying funding forward beyond this academic year and plans for Ofsted monitoring during the summer term.

The importance of testing and reporting in secondary schools and colleges

- Testing continues to play a crucial role, in and out of classrooms, in our fight against coronavirus (COVID-19). Staff should continue to test themselves and report results whilst encouraging secondary school and college students to do likewise.
- Reporting test results can be done simply and quickly, from mobiles, online or by phone, and should be completed straightaway. Reporting not only supports contact tracing in the event of a positive case, but assists our understanding of community rates of infection.
- To help in communicating the importance of testing and reporting, we have produced a blog on [why reporting your test result is as important as taking a test](#), featuring further guidance and common questions. This also includes details on financial support available to parents whose children are asked to self-isolate after contact with a positive case. Please share this in your newsletters and communications with pupils and parents.

New Orient Gene lateral flow device (LFD) tests for use at on-site asymptomatic testing sites (ATS)

- From Monday 10 May, NHS Test and Trace are introducing a new type of LFD called Orient Gene. These new devices are for use at on-site ATS in secondary schools and colleges. These tests require double nasal swab samples only – a throat sample is not needed. The Orient Gene devices also return a positive or negative result in under 30 minutes.
- ***There is no change to the test kits used by staff and students at home.*** Staff and students will continue to use the Innova test kits at home, which require both a throat and nasal swab.
- The ordering window for on-site test kit deliveries during week commencing Monday 10 May is now open. Any [tests ordered for use](#) on-site will be the new Orient Gene type of test. You should start using the new Orient Gene test kits for testing on-site only when your supply of Innova kits runs out.
- Updated guidance for how to use these tests will be published on GOV.UK and on the document sharing platform shortly.

Update to guidance on rapid asymptomatic testing in early years settings

- We have updated our [asymptomatic testing: early years staff in different settings guidance](#) to reflect that asymptomatic testing is now available to everyone in England. We have also clarified where staff, parents or carers may be eligible for Test and Trace support payments.

Secondary school and further education college at-home coronavirus (COVID-19) test kit delivery process

- At-home COVID-19 test kits for secondary schools and further education colleges will be delivered to you through our automatic replenishment process.
- Only on-site asymptomatic test site (ATS) test kits can be ordered by using the [contact us](#) form. Please do not use this form to place an order unless you require on-site tests for use in your ATS site.
- You can check when the date of your next delivery of home test kits is due by visiting the [secondary school and college document sharing platform](#). Please wait for 48 hours after a scheduled delivery date before contacting the Department for Education COVID-19 helpline.
- If you are likely to run out of home test kits before your expected delivery date, please contact the helpline on 0800 046 8687 and ask for your delivery to be expedited (or for an emergency replenishment where stock is likely to run out within 4 days).

Final days to claim for free school meals additional costs

- The deadline to 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, when pupil attendance in school was restricted, **is 11:59pm on Tuesday 4 May**. You can also claim for lunch parcels provided during this period and up until the start of the Easter holidays.

- You can claim directly, or local authorities and academy trusts can claim on your behalf. 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](#). You should not make claims in relation to support provided through the Edenred national voucher scheme, as all of 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.

Recruiting teachers from overseas under the new immigration system

- European Economic Area (EEA) and Swiss nationals who were living in the UK by Thursday 31 December 2020, including teachers, can apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to continue living, working and studying in the UK. ***The deadline for applications is Wednesday 30 June 2021.***
- ***Overseas nationals arriving in the UK from Friday 1 January 2021 come under the new points-based immigration system.*** Teachers arriving from this date, including those from the EEA and Switzerland, need to apply for a visa. Schools and further education providers may need to become visa sponsors if they want to recruit teachers who are not UK or Irish nationals.
- Further information can be found in our [guidance for schools on recruiting teachers from overseas](#). You can also [sign up to a webinar](#) which will provide information for schools on the new points-based immigration system. ***The webinar will take place on Thursday 13 May at 4pm and will be run by the Department for Education and the Home Office.***
- Anyone travelling into the country will also need to consider any current travel advice or restrictions and should refer to the guidance on [how to quarantine when you arrive in England](#).

Getting help and support to recruit teachers from overseas – new Department for Education pilot

- The Department for Education is researching ways we can help schools recruit internationally. We are considering setting up a help desk for visa sponsorship and immigration queries and we are inviting a small number of early adopters to join a pilot for this service. When you sign up to the pilot, you will get expert help with international recruitment for teachers starting in September 2021 and we will ask you for feedback on how we can improve our service going forward.

If you are interested in taking part, please email us at visa.helpservice@education.gov.uk.

Supporting overseas teachers

- If your school is recruiting international maths, physics and modern foreign languages teachers, the Department for Education is trialling a new virtual acclimatisation service to give them the knowledge and skills they need to flourish in English classrooms, including their responsibilities and requirements to be COVID-19 compliant.

- We will provide teachers with virtual, phone and email pre-arrival support, a two-day virtual acclimatisation training event, phone and email support throughout their first term and a further training and networking event with other international teachers once they have started in school. These events are designed to accommodate all teachers' current or forthcoming quarantine requirements. Schools are asked to appoint an in-school mentor, who can also access virtual training to support your international teachers.

If you are interested in signing up for this service, or for further information, please email international.teacherrecruitment@education.gov.uk.