

## Children and Families, Early Years Division Weekly News Bulletin: 30 June 2021



Department  
for Education

### [Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\) Statutory Framework](#)

The standards that school and childcare providers must meet for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5.

#### **Change made:**

Updated 'Early years foundation stage: coronavirus disapplications' with link to the current version of Ofsted's early years inspection handbook, and clarification of dates disapplications can be used.

Updated: 28 June 2021

- link to the current version of [Ofsted's early years inspection handbook](#), published on 28 June 2021 for inspections taking place **from 1 September 2021**
- clarify that the period in which the EYFS disapplications can be used **ends on 31 August 2021**
- clarify that if government restrictions and requirements are lifted before 31 August 2021 the disapplications can no longer be used as the necessary conditions will not be met

It has been identified that the early Years sector is experience a significant challenge in recruiting staff, particularly those qualified to level 3 and above, however the disapplications to the EYFS are relevant to the specific circumstances of the current pandemic situation. As such we draw your attention to the following section of the [Covid-19 guidance for early years providers](#), which covers existing flexibilities within the EYFS with regard to staffing ratios. There are no plans to change this guidance when the disapplications end in September:

#### **Varying staff to child ratios and qualifications**

*Paragraph 3.30 of the EYFS states 'Exceptionally, and where the quality of care and safety and security of children is maintained, changes to the ratios may be made.'*

The extent of COVID-19 is considered to be an exceptional temporary circumstance in which the staff to child ratios set out in the EYFS can be changed if necessary. Early years settings and schools, however, **remain responsible for ensuring the safety and security of children in their care.**

### [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) local restrictions in education and childcare settings](#)

How settings can prepare for restrictions to help contain community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).

#### **Change made:**

The guidance has now been converted to HTML to make it easier to read.

Updated: 25 June 2021

## All educational settings – summer and autumn testing arrangements

This is a DfE update on the plans for testing over the summer and into the autumn so you have sufficient time to plan ahead of the summer break.

We are confirming that regular asymptomatic rapid testing will stay in place until the end of the summer term. Thank you for all your efforts to encourage students and staff to test themselves twice a week at home – please do continue to do this in these last few weeks of term.

Regular testing will pause in education settings over the summer except for in those that remain open such as summer schools, out of school settings and those that do not operate on a term-time basis. In these cases, only those attending should continue to test regularly. However, testing is still widely available and kits can be collected either from your local pharmacy or ordered [online](#).

Please use the [online re-ordering platform](#) to place orders for further test kits after reviewing your stock levels to enable testing over the summer holiday period, if your setting remains open (for example Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) nurseries, Independent Training Providers (ITPs) and Adult Community Learning provider (ACLPs)).

The guidance for children in year 6 and below remains the same and we will not be advising them to test. This includes year 6 pupils attending transition days or summer schools over the summer break.

We want to help education settings to be prepared for all scenarios, including testing on return after the summer holidays. We will provide all schools and colleges with refreshed guidance, test kits, and PPE so that you can be ready to stand up on-site Asymptomatic Test Sites (ATS) from the start of the autumn term. We expect to be able to confirm the position alongside announcements on Step 4.

Given the uncertainties about the Covid situation we will face in the autumn, we want to help secondary schools and colleges to be as prepared as possible for all scenarios, including testing on return after the summer holidays, if needed. Schools and colleges may choose to start testing students and pupils no earlier than three days before the start of term, or stagger the return of pupils during the first week of term if they would like to do so. This is voluntary and at the discretion of each school and college.

Test kits for ATS will be delivered from Tuesday 29 June to Friday 23 July. There is no need for you to make separate orders for this. Information on delivery schedules and refreshed guidance is now available on the [school and college document sharing platform](#). If you do not have access to this, please contact the DfE helpline on 0800 046 8687.

### **Confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test after a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test**

LFD tests are most effective when detecting infectious cases of coronavirus. They identify people with a high viral load who are the most likely to spread the virus further. LFDs detect the virus in people without symptoms so each positive case we find is one that would have gone otherwise undetected. These tests are proving to be accurate and reliable and, where used appropriately and in the correct way, they will continue to help us to break chains of the transmission and save lives.

Anyone who tests positive using an LFD test will be asked to take a confirmatory follow-up PCR test. It remains essential that anyone who gets a positive LFD result self-isolates immediately for 10 days, as well as the other members of their household. You must only leave home for your follow-up test. You should arrange your confirmatory PCR immediately. For the fastest result, we suggest you [book a PCR test at a test site](#). You can also book a home test [online](#) or call 119 to book a test.

A PCR test will confirm if you have been affected by coronavirus or not, and reduce unnecessary self-isolation by you and your household. If you then receive a negative result from the PCR, and the PCR test was taken within 2 days of the LFD, then you and your contacts will be informed you can cease self-isolating.

Individuals who test negative from their LFD will not need to isolate or take a confirmatory test.

### **Confirm your summer school plans to secure your funding**

Thank you to those schools that informed us of their intention to run a summer school this year.

To secure your [funding allocation](#), you now need to complete the online [confirmation form](#) by Wednesday 30 June. If we do not receive confirmation, funding will be reallocated to schools that have requested additional places for their pupils.

You may also apply for funding to cover additional places, subject to overall take-up. You will be notified quickly of any additional funding but should plan to deliver your summer school within your published maximum allocation in the meantime.

If you did not complete the initial sign-up form, you can still join the programme by completing the [confirmation form](#).

Read the [guidance on summer schools](#) and watch the [webinar](#) for more information.

If you have any questions, please contact us at [learning.recovery@education.gov.uk](mailto:learning.recovery@education.gov.uk).  
Published 28 June 2021

### **[Disapplication notice: school inspections legislation changes](#)**

Secretary of State for Education issues a 15th notice about changes to state-funded school inspection requirements during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

#### **Change made:**

Added 'Education Act 2005: school inspection disapplication notice July 2021'.

Updated: 25 June 2021

### **[Reported coronavirus \(COVID-19\) notifications by registered early years and childcare settings](#)**

This data is published fortnightly. It gives the number of registered early years and childcare providers reporting one or more confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) by week.

Added data for weeks beginning 31 May and 7 June. Week ending 07.06.21 total case reported by registered early years and childcare setting rose to 269.

Updated: 28 June 2021

## Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

Attendance in education settings since Monday 23 March 2020 and early years settings since Thursday 16 April 2020.

**Added** 'Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak – 23 March 2020 to 24 June'.

Updated: 29 June 2021

### **Early years settings**

The early years local authority survey has moved to fortnightly. We estimate 937,000 children are currently attending early years childcare settings on Thursday 24 June 2021 – about 58% of the number of children who usually attend childcare in term time. Due to many children attending EY settings on a part-time basis, we would not expect all children to be in attendance on the day of the data collection. On a typical day in the Summer term we expect attendance to be 1,154,000, due to different and part-time patterns of childcare during the week. We estimate that the 937,000 children currently attending early years settings is approximately 81% of the usual daily level.

The response rate to the early years local authority survey was 88%, with 134 out of 152 LAs submitting data on 24 June 2021.

An estimated 55,000 early years settings were open on 24 June 2021. This represents 82% of all settings, with 6% closed and 12% unknown.

### **Department for Education COVID-19 helpline**

The [Department for Education COVID-19 helpline](#) and the PHE Advice Service (option 1) is available to answer any questions you have about COVID-19 relating to education settings and children's social care.

DfE coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687

### **Department for Education Guidance**

Our guidance to support education providers, local authorities and parents during the COVID-19 pandemic can be accessed using the links below:

- [Guidance for early years and childcare providers](#)
- [Guidance for schools](#)
- [Guidance for further and higher education providers](#)
- [Guidance for local authority children's services](#)
- [Guidance for special schools and other specialist settings](#)

## Pupil Premium

The government is giving schools extra funding to help improve outcomes for disadvantaged children and other pupils who need extra support.

### **Change made:**

Moved information about 2021 to 2022 allocations to the effective use and accountability webpage.

Updated: 24 June 2021

## **Update on the educational setting status form**

The [educational setting status form](#) will be paused from Friday 16 July until the start of the autumn term. Please continue to complete the form daily up until, and including, Friday 16 July. If your school or college term ends before this date, you do not need to submit the form once your setting has closed for the summer.

Thank you for your work in completing the form since March last year. The information you have provided has been vital in helping us to understand the impact of COVID-19 on the education sector.



## [Ofsted: coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rolling update](#)

Ofsted guidance and information relating to coronavirus (COVID-19) for schools, early years, children's social care and further education and skills providers

Updated: 3 June 2021

Continued...

## Early years inspection handbook

Ofsted guidance on inspecting registered early years and childcare providers under the education inspection framework.

Updated: 28 June 2021

### Summary of changes

#### **June 2021 (for September 2021 version)**

##### **Major changes**

Paragraphs 6 to 24: Changes to the inspection and the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic section. The changes mostly concern the changes to the EYFS disapplications. All updates in relation to COVID-19 are made in this section unless specified.

Paragraphs 25 to 28: New section on revisions to the EYFS from 1 September 2021 has been included to reflect the reforms to the EYFS (and who it applies to) and Development Matters to provide clarity.

Paragraphs 52 to 55: New section providing clarification on our requirements for inspection to dispel myths about inspection that can result in unnecessary workload for providers.

Implementation grade descriptor: Addition of the word 'including' in Implementation (2nd bullet) to clarify that leaders should provide effective support to all staff, including those with less experience and knowledge of teaching.

Outstanding grade descriptor: Amendments to 'outstanding' grade descriptors for personal development.

Good grade descriptor: Amendments to 'good' grade descriptors for personal development.

Good grade descriptor Amendments to 'good' grade descriptors for leadership and management: 2nd and 5th bullets

##### **Minor changes**

Paragraph 36 to 37, (and 71 and 79): Update to provide clarity and reflect the changes to inspections we prioritise.

Paragraph 42: Clarification that where a provider has no children on roll (NCOR), an inspector may reference within reports what a setting needs to do better, even when the outcome is 'met'.

Paragraph 64: Clarification that inspectors will ask about any additional support and/or arrangements for children who need special educational provision, including responses to any emerging needs or difficulties.

Paragraphs 65 to 66: Updated to reflect the documentation an inspector must see on inspection and what they may need access to.

Paragraphs 71, 79 (and 36 to 37): Update to provide clarity and reflect the changes to inspections we prioritise.

Paragraphs 81 to 82: Clarification on activities for gathering evidence, children with SEND and the most disadvantaged children.

Annex A, Paragraph 14: Clarification that even when the outcome is 'met', an inspector may reference within reports what the setting needs to do better.

## Childminders

### [Become a childminder agency: forms](#)

Application forms to complete to register with Ofsted.  
Update: 17 June 2021

To apply for registration as a childminder agency you need to complete the CMA1 and CMA2. The CMA1 is the application form for the Early Years Register and Childcare Register. The CMA2 is the declaration and consent form for all individuals connected with a childminder agency.

### [Childminder agencies: inspection guidance](#)

Guidance for childminder agencies about the main activities carried out by inspectors. It also sets out the judgements that inspectors will make.  
Updated: 17 June 2021

### [Childminder agencies: registration and suitability](#)

Guidance for childminder agencies on registering with Ofsted, including the process, fees and requirements. It sets out the legal background and the extent of our regulatory powers.  
Updated: 17 June 2021

#### **Summary of changes:**

The guidance document has been updated to make the requirements for registration clearer for the applicant. The guidance is now published in HTML to meet accessibility requirements. The outcome of the registration visit is no longer decided at the registration visit, and normally within a week after this takes place. The guidance includes information and a link to the new data notification survey for childminder agencies.

## Early Years Team

### **Early Years Inclusion Grant - Training and CPD 2021/2022** **Early Years Inclusion Grant Allocated Budget**

As you will be aware the DSG budget 2021/2022 for early years funded provision was agreed following a consultation with the sector in February 2021. During this period an allocated amount for the Early Years Inclusion Grant was set at £40,000 for the year. Last year the agreed budget was £50,000 and just under £25,000 was used via grants and specific SEND training. This year we would like to gather your thoughts on how to effectively maximise the use of the agreed allocation and we would appreciate your responses to the following short survey which only has 7 questions.

Survey: [https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/EYinclusiongrant\\_training](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/EYinclusiongrant_training)

Please submit your responses by **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021**.

If you have any questions about this survey, please do not hesitate to contact us  
[earlyyears@slough.gov.uk](mailto:earlyyears@slough.gov.uk)



## Virtual School

The Virtual School for children looked after (CLA) is a core service within Slough Children's Services Trust. It is not a physical building that children attend but is a team of education specialists who are here to ensure that children looked after and children who have left care are supported and achieve their full potential at their real schools.

The service provides advice, training and support to children and young people in care, teachers, school staff and governors, education support services, social workers, residential key workers, parents and foster carers.

The service monitors the educational provision and progress of all children and young people in the care of the Trust. The aim of the service is to enhance life chances of children looked after, by aspiring for them and being their education advocate through promotion of achievement and equality of opportunity.

There are approximately 200 Slough children looked after. All of these children will have experienced distress, loss and trauma which may have an effect on their development and education.

### **Who we are**

Anne Bunce is the Virtual School Head, she has ultimate responsibility for ensuring that arrangements are in place to improve the educational experiences and outcomes of the authority's CLA, including those placed out-of-borough. The Virtual School Head should also ensure the educational attainment and progress of CLA are monitored and evaluated as if those children attended a single school. Anne can be contacted on [anne.bunce@sloughchildrenfirst.co.uk](mailto:anne.bunce@sloughchildrenfirst.co.uk) or on 01753 875920.

There are links to lots of useful information including:

- [The role and responsibilities of the designated teacher for looked after children](#)
- [Pupil premium policy for children looked after](#)
- [Promoting the education of CLA in the early years](#)

### **Adopters and Special Guardians**

They also provide advice and guidance to schools and families of adopted children who were previously in care.

If you are an adoptive parent or special guardian and you have queries regarding education, or the pupil premium please contact Ewen on [ewen.godfrey@sloughchildrenfirst.co.uk](mailto:ewen.godfrey@sloughchildrenfirst.co.uk) or on **01753 690725**.

We will continue to share information from the Virtual School Team and they are currently developing some training for the EY sector. For more information about the [virtual school click here](#).

## Updates for Parents

**Venue to Virtual -  
The Disabled Living Collective**

**FREE EVENT!**

**40+ EXHIBITORS**

**LIVE Q&A**

**Venue to Virtual**

**Week Commencing 28th June 2021**

A showcase for people of all ages with disabilities and additional needs, their families and all the professionals who support them.

**Disabled Living**  
www.disabledliving.co.uk

**Kidz to Adulz Exhibitions**  
info@disabledliving.co.uk

**Bladder & Bowel UK**  
Supporting people with bladder and bowel problems  
part of Disabled Living  
0161 214 4592

Kidz to Adulz is a Trademark registered to Disabled Living. Registered charity no: 224742

### The Disabled Living Collective

Monday 28th June saw the start of an actioned packed week of exhibitors showcasing their equipment, products and services.

This virtual event is totally dedicated to those who care for or support people of all ages with a disability or additional needs.

Follow the link to open the guide containing all the useful information you need to help you plan and get the most out of the event. It also contains information on how to navigate the platform and more detailed information on each exhibitor taking part and their timeslots throughout the week.

[Venue to Virtual Showguide June 2021 by Disabled Living - Issuu](#)



## Button Battery Safety

Many parents are still unaware of the risks posed by big, powerful lithium coin cell batteries or where small children can find them in their homes.

Our [Button battery hub](#) is packed with simple, practical advice. It's easy to share and can help prevent other families suffering such a terrible tragedy.

- Download and share our poster [Button batteries – where are yours?](#) to help parents check their homes
- Share our news article [‘Warning to parents after button battery death of two year old’](#)
- Comment on and share our [Facebook posts](#)
- Use any of the information from our [Button battery hub](#) to share with families

Find out more about safety at the [child accident prevent trust website](#)

## [Frimley CCG Parent/Carer survey](#)

The aim of the 5- 10 minute survey is to understand how parent/carers:

- currently try and find information about mental health, autism and ADHD services for their children and whether this needs to change
- to find out parents and their child's views on how helpful these services were if they used them.

The survey is now live and we would respectfully ask for parents to complete the survey **by Friday 9th July**.

[Click here to complete the survey](#)



### **New Site for Parents on Dealing with Childhood Illnesses 0-18**

The site aims to empower parents, carers and young people with knowledge and easily accessible help at their fingertips.

If you are unsure if you can stay home or need to see someone for your sick child Healthier Together can help!

- Clear *traffic light system* for illness advice so you feel confident with the decision you make and *what you can do at home*.
- You can find help with day-to-day queries such as pregnancy, feeding, sleep and development.
- Current topics from COVID to mental health and emotional well-being.
- Brings together national resources and *Local services* available in Berkshire, Bucks, Hampshire and Surrey.
- SMS option to share with other parents and young people and can be accessed on any device; phone, tablet or computer.

Follow the link <https://frimley-healthiertogether.nhs.uk/>

## *Healthier Together* *for Parents on Dealing with Childhood Illnesses 0-18*



Unsure if you can stay home or need to see someone for your sick child? **Healthier Together can help!**

- Clear **traffic light system** for illness advice
- Find help with day-to-day queries such as **pregnancy, feeding**, sleep and development
- Topics from COVID to **mental health** and emotional well-being.
- **Local services** available in Berkshire, Bucks, Hampshire and Surrey.

[www.frimley-healthiertgether.nhs.uk](http://www.frimley-healthiertgether.nhs.uk)

## News and events

### The early years sector: a changing picture

Yvette Stanley, National Director for Regulation and Social Care, and Jason Bradbury, Deputy Director, Data and Insight, discuss the latest early years and childcare statistics in this [Ofsted: social care and early years regulation blog](#).