

## Children and Families, Early Years Division Weekly News Bulletin: 07 July 2021



Department  
for Education

### The Prime Minister's announcement on Step 4 of the roadmap

Yesterday, the Prime Minister [set out details](#) of the final roadmap step (Step 4) as we transition out of lockdown. Subject to a final review of the data next week, legal restrictions will end on Monday 19 July.

When England moves to Step 4 of the roadmap, the government will continue to manage the risk of serious illness from the spread of the virus. This will mark a new phase in the government's response to the pandemic, moving away from stringent restrictions on everyone's day-to-day lives, towards advising people on how to protect themselves and others, alongside targeted interventions to reduce risk. More detailed information on how the government will do this is set out in [COVID-19 Response: Summer 2021](#).

We are changing the controls that apply in early years, schools, colleges and higher education institutions to maintain a baseline of protective measures while maximising attendance and minimising disruption to children and young people's education. We have published new guidance for arrangements in education settings from Step 4, covering both the summer period and the following term, when children will return to school:

- [Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus outbreak](#)
- [Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak](#)
- [Guidance for special schools and other specialist settings](#)
- [Assessment processes for selective school admissions](#)
- [Actions for FE colleges and providers during the coronavirus outbreak](#)
- [Guidance for higher education providers](#)
- [Use of PPE in education, childcare and children's social care](#)

You can also read our more detailed frequently asked questions about what Step 4 means for you in our [article](#) on the Education Hub.

Guidance for out-of-school settings, children's social care, apprenticeships and parents will be updated over the next 2 days.

#### Tracing close contacts and isolation

When England moves to Step 4 of the roadmap, we will be removing the need to keep children and young people in consistent groups ('bubbles') in schools, colleges and out-of-school settings and the need to reduce mixing in early years settings.

continued

Also from Step 4, education and childcare settings will not routinely be required to undertake contact tracing for children and young people. We expect settings to continue to fulfil their contact tracing responsibilities up to Step 4 (or six days after term ends – whichever is earlier). From that point onwards, close contacts will be identified directly by NHS Test and Trace. Settings may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases. Pupils and students who test positive will be subject to the normal test and trace process, which will identify close contacts. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact.

From Monday 16 August, children under 18 years old, and those who are double vaccinated, will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact. At this point, close contacts of a positive case will be informed by NHS Test and Trace and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Self-isolation will continue for those who have tested positive for COVID-19.



## Department for Education

### [Covid restrictions in education settings to end at Step 4](#)

Further Covid restrictions in education settings will end from Step 4, the Education Secretary has confirmed today [6 July].

As part of Step 4, expected to take place on 19 July, ‘bubbles’ will end for all children under 18, social distancing will no longer be necessary, and schools will not need to stagger start and finish times, though they can continue with existing arrangements until the end of term if they wish.

The lifting of Covid restrictions in schools is in line with the general removal of restrictions for England at Step 4. Schools may choose to continue with these measures until the end of the Summer term.

From 16 August, the legal requirement to self-isolate for contacts of a positive case will end for everyone aged under 18, and for adults who have been fully vaccinated. This means that from the autumn term, only those who test positive will need to self-isolate. From Step 4, NHS test and trace will carry out contact tracing in all education settings rather than being run by the school or college. Those identified as close contacts will be advised to take a PCR test, and only need to isolate if they test positive. Children must self-isolate if they have symptoms of Covid or a positive test result.

Testing for close contacts under 18 will be split into two categories. All Primary, Secondary and College age children should take a single PCR test. Early Years children should only take a PCR test if a member of their household tests positive.

Protective measures will remain in place for the autumn term in all education settings including practicing good hygiene, ventilation, and regular testing until the end of September to strike a balance between relaxing restrictions and minimising further disruption to children’s education. Two onsite tests should be taken by each secondary school and college student on return, followed by twice weekly testing at home. The Government will review testing requirements by the end of September.

Education Secretary Gavin Williamson said:

*I am incredibly grateful to everyone working in education and childcare for their tireless work to make the best of what has been a very challenging situation.*

**continued**

*While the pandemic is not over, we are moving into a new phase of managing Covid, from strict rules and towards personal responsibility. The measures we will have after summer strike the right balance as we learn to live with the virus so children can get on with their lives and education in the best possible way.*

Education settings will continue to have an outbreak management plan and work with local health teams, as is standard practice. Local Directors of Public Health may advise a setting to temporarily reintroduce some control measures in the event of an outbreak.

All school trips, drama, music and sporting activity will be able to resume in line with the relaxation of restrictions across society from Step 4.

Education settings still operating over the summer will continue to test twice a week, with asymptomatic test kits still available to families over the summer break.

In line with measures for wider society, the Government will be recommending that face coverings will no longer be necessary in any education setting and social distancing will no longer be necessary, including in schools and colleges. This differs from Step 3 of the roadmap, where face coverings were no longer recommended for pupils and students in classrooms or communal areas.

All education staff are urged to get both vaccine doses if they have not yet done so, helping further reduce any potential disruption as a result of self-isolation. From Step 4, there will also be no restrictions on in-person teaching and learning in universities.

[Further detailed guidance](#) has been published to enable schools and colleges to plan for how they will operate from September.

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**Changes to advice, please click on each link to read the full guidance updated 06.07.21**

**[Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)**

What childcare services early years settings, childminders and local authorities need to provide during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Updated: 6 July 2021

Added operational guidance for early years settings which applies at Step 4. This guidance removes restrictions such as keeping children in small consistent groups and wearing face coverings in communal areas. It also includes information about updating your outbreak management plan and what to do when an individual in your setting tests positive for COVID-19. At Step 4, close contacts will be identified by NHS Test and Trace. [By the autumn term, children under the age of 18 will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact.]

[Read the full guidance here](#) (applies until Step 4)

**continued**

## Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak

What all schools will need to do during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

We have added operational guidance for schools which applies at Step 4. This guidance removes restrictions such as keeping children in consistent groups (bubbles) and wearing face coverings in classrooms and communal areas and on dedicated school transport. It also includes information about updating your outbreak management plan and what to do when an individual in your school tests positive for COVID-19. From 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact.

Updated: 6 July 2021

[Schools Covid-19 operational guidance](#) (applies until Step 4)

## Use of PPE in education, childcare and children's social care

When to use PPE, including for aerosol generating procedures (AGPs), in education, childcare and children's social care settings for COVID-19.

Added 'The use of personal protective equipment (PPE) in education, childcare and children's social care settings, including for aerosol generating procedures (AGPs)' for use in Step 4. We have removed sector information on the controls measures and included information on the use of personal protective equipment, including for aerosol generating procedures.

Updated: 6 July 2021

[Read the full updated guidance here](#)

## Special schools and other specialist settings: coronavirus (COVID-19)

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

Published new guidance which will come into effect from Step 4 of the roadmap. This includes updated guidance on workforce, people who are clinically extremely vulnerable, attendance, residential settings, remote education, education recovery, home to school transport and funding. It includes new guidance on protection measures such as: mixing and 'bubbles', close contact tracing and isolation, face coverings, contingency planning, hygiene measures, ventilation, suspected or confirmed cases and testing.

Updated: 6 July 2021

[Read the full guidance here](#)

## **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.

**Phone: 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](#)



## Department for Education

### [Statistics: childcare and early years](#)

Childcare arrangements for all ages and early years provision for children who are 5 years of age or younger.

Change made:

['Provision for children under five in England: January 2021'](#)

Updated: 1 July 2021

Early years provision for children under 5 years in the local authority maintained, private, voluntary and independent sectors in England.

This data reports on the provision of funded early education for children under 5 in England during the week commencing 18 January 2021.

All children aged three- and four-years-old, and eligible disadvantaged two-year-olds, are entitled to 15 hours per week of **funded early education** for 38 weeks of the year. Working parents of three- and four-year-olds are eligible for an additional 15 weekly hours of **extended funded early education** for 38 weeks of the year. Full criteria for eligibility are outlined in the Background section of the Methodology.

Data is collected from local authorities covering schools, maintained nurseries and private, voluntary and independent (PVI) providers including childminders as part of the spring school census and the early years census.

- The number of eligible two-year-olds registered to receive **funded** early education entitlements has fallen by 13% to **124,500** in 2021.
- The number of three and four-year-olds registered to receive from **funded** early education has fallen by 5% to **1,212,000** in 2021.
- The number of three and four-year-olds registered to receive from **extended** early education has fallen by 5% and is now **similar to the number in 2019**.

The decrease in the number and proportion of children registered to receive funded entitlements reflect the impact of COVID-19 uncertainty on supply (providers) and demand (parents) for early years provision in January 2021.

[Education provision: children under 5 years of age; latest data](#)



Department  
for Education

### [Teaching a broad and balanced curriculum for education recovery](#)

Optional guidance for school leaders and staff in reception, and key stages 1 to 3, who are responsible for the curriculum and its teaching.

Published: 2 July 2021

[Click here for guidance](#)

### [Keeping children safe in education: proposed revisions 2021](#)

The Government have sought views on proposed changes to the statutory guidance 'Keeping children safe in education' with a view to making changes for September 2021.

Updated: 6 July 2021

You can read the [Government's response to the consultation here](#): including a summary of the responses received, and an outline of the next steps.



### [Childcare providers and inspections as at 31 March 2021](#)

This release includes registered childcare providers and places, inspection outcomes, and joiners and leavers as at 31 March 2021.

First published: 30 June 2021

[Main findings: childcare providers and inspections as at 31 March 2021](#)

### [Glossary of terms: Ofsted statistics](#)

Explanation of terms used in Ofsted's official and national statistical releases.

Change made:

Updated the childcare providers and inspections glossary terms for the latest childcare providers and inspections as at 31 March 2021 release.

Updated: 30 June 2021

## [Childcare providers and inspections](#)

### **Childcare providers**

Childcare providers care for at least one individual child for a total of more than 2 hours in any one day. This is not necessarily a continuous period. They must register on the [CCR](#) to care for children under the age of 8, although there may be some exceptions to this. They can register on the [VCR](#) to care for older children.

### **Childcare providers on domestic and non-domestic premises**

If 4 or more people look after children at any one time in someone's home, they are providing childcare on domestic premises, not childminding.

Childcare providers on non-domestic premises are people or organisations providing care for individual children in premises that are not someone's home. These premises can range from converted houses to purpose-built nurseries.

**continued**

### **Childcare Register (CR)**

The CR is for providers that care for children from birth to 18 years. It has 2 parts:

- the compulsory part of the Childcare Register (CCR) – for providers caring for children from 1 September after the child's fifth birthday up until their eighth birthday
- the voluntary part of the Childcare Register (VCR) – for providers for whom registration is not compulsory, for example nannies, or providers that care for children aged 8 and over

Providers that are registered on either part of the Childcare Register do not need to submit their places information to Ofsted.

For providers registered on the Childcare Register, Ofsted inspects a sample of 10% of active providers per year.

### **Childminders**

A childminder is a person who is registered to look after one or more children, to whom they are not related, for reward. Childminders work on domestic premises alongside no more than 2 other childminders or assistants. They must register if they care for children under the age of 8 and can choose to register if they care for older children. They care for:

- children on domestic premises that are not usually the home of one of the children unless they care for children from more than 2 families, wholly or mainly in the homes of the families
- at least one individual child for a total of more than 2 hours in any day (not necessarily a continuous period)

### **Childminder agencies**

Childminder agencies were introduced in September 2014 as an alternative registration option for childminders. Childminders who register with an agency no longer need to register or be inspected by Ofsted, although the agency itself will receive an inspection.

Childminder agencies are only eligible for inspection by Ofsted when they have childminders on roll. Childminder agencies have the responsibility of inspecting the childminders who are registered with them.

### **Early years foundation stage (EYFS)**

The [EYFS](#) is the statutory framework for the early education and care of children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday.

**continued**

### **Early Years Register (EYR)**

The EYR is for providers that care for children in the early years age group, from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday. Registration is compulsory for these providers and they must meet the requirements of the EYFS.

### **Home childcarers**

Home childcarers are usually nannies who care for children of any age up to their 18th birthday wholly or mainly in the child's own home, and care for children from no more than 2 families. They are not required to register with Ofsted, though they may choose to do so on the voluntary part of the [Childcare Register](#).

### **Inspection windows**

Until recently, we inspected childcare providers on a 4-year inspection cycle. The most recent inspection cycle ran from 1 August 2016 to 31 July 2020. However, due to the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus), we paused our routine inspections in mid-March 2020.

As we resume full EYR inspections from May 2021, we will no longer be inspecting providers on a 4-year cycle. All early years providers will have their own inspection window based on the date and judgement of their last inspection. We will look to inspect all providers within a 6-year window. However, we will continue to re-inspect providers judged 'requires improvement' and 'inadequate' within 12 and 6 months respectively. We will still aim to inspect all new childcare providers within 30 months of their registration date.

### **Joiners and leavers**

Joiners are childcare providers that have registered with Ofsted during this reporting period. Most of these are new registrations, but Tables 3 and 4 and Chart 1 within the 'Childcare providers and inspections charts and tables' document also include providers with re-activated registrations and those that have changed provider type or register. At local authority or regional level, this may also include providers that have relocated into a new geographical area.

Leavers are mostly childcare providers that have left Ofsted during the reporting period. Most of these are resignations, but some are also providers that have had their registration cancelled or have changed provider type or register. At local authority or regional level, this may also include providers that have relocated out of a geographical area.

### **No children on roll (NCOR)**

If there are no children present on the day of the provider's inspection, they receive an NCOR inspection. The inspector will make a judgement on the 'overall quality and standards of the early years provision', with 3 possible outcomes:

- met
- not met – actions
- not met – enforcement action

### **Number of places**

Registered places are the number of children that may attend the provision at any one time. Registered places are not the number of places occupied, nor the number of children who may benefit from receiving places through providers offering sessions at different times of the day. Place numbers are only collected for providers on the EYR. Provider type averages are used to estimate the number of places for a very small number of providers whose place numbers are not available at the time of the analysis. There may also be small discrepancies in totals due to rounding.

**continued**

### Out-of-school day care

Providers (including childminders) registered on the EYR but that only provide care exclusively for children at the beginning and end of the school day or in holiday periods do not need to meet the learning and development requirements of the EYFS. The inspector will make a judgement only on the 'overall effectiveness: quality and standards of the early years provision' with 3 possible outcomes:

- met
- not met – with actions
- not met – with enforcement



### [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: 03 June 2021



### Help for early years providers

Get ready for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) changes in September 2021 with this [guidance and practical support](#).

These resources are for childminders, nursery leaders and pre-school practitioners.

The service, developed with sector experts and extensively tested with PVI staff and childminders, features information and resources all in one place to support you to understand and implement the changes to the EYFS, including a summary of the changes, links to key documents, and ideas for activities.

Each of the 7 areas of learning have been broken down into 3 sections with bite-sized information, engaging videos and ideas for activities to support your understanding of the educational programmes.

## Early Years

### 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).

## Updates for Parents

### Early Years Survey



#### Early Years Survey

The survey will take approximately 5 minutes to complete. The Children and Young People's Mental Health Local Transformation Plan has identified that there is a need to collaborate and develop the offer to support the emotional wellbeing of children under 5 years old. This can be either directly by offering opportunities for play and learning or indirectly by upskilling and supporting the workforce that support children under 5 years old. In this survey we will be focussing on indirect element of upskilling and supporting the workforce that supports children under 5 years old. We are gathering the views of our private, voluntary and independent education settings. This short survey only takes 5 minutes to complete and the information will be crucial in our service delivery planning moving forward.

The deadline for completion is **31st July 2021**.

To complete the survey [click here](#)

## Safeguarding

Following the government response to [Keeping children safe in education: proposed revisions 2021](#); opportunity for free CPD

**Join a free webinar from the Safeguarding Network on 14th July at 4pm and learn:**

- All the key updates of KCSiE - what you need to know
- What the updates mean in practice - what do you need to do
- Live Q&A session with our highly experienced safeguarding team
- Bonus powerpoint presentation to use to brief your other staff members
- Sneak peak of Safeguarding Network members' only content
- Exclusive membership offer



[Click here to find out more and book a place](#)

## Slough Borough Council: Section 114 notice 02.07.21

Council pauses non-essential spending following Section 114 notice Today (2 July), Slough Borough Council has announced it will be pausing non-essential spending, in response to a report by the Director of Finance into the state of the council's finances, known as a Section 114 Notice. In addition, the council has formally notified the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) of the Section 114 Notice and will be seeking financial support from the Ministry.

The move follows months of action by the council to gain a full understanding of, and begin to tackle, the financial challenges it is facing, and detailed discussions on moves to match council resources with demand for services. Josie Wragg, chief executive said: "Residents should be reassured this notice does not mean any immediate change to services; we will still be collecting your bins next week, safeguarding the most vulnerable in our town, maintaining the roads and supporting schools, to list just some of the services we know are important to you.

"Slough's financial problems result from a range of challenging financial issues that have grown in scale over a number of years, and as a new team we are committed to changing the way the council operates to match our resources. "The section 114 notice is one step in what has been, and will continue to be, an on-going programme of improvement to our financial footing, which began with our new financial and executive management team."

Over the past year, Slough Borough Council has dedicated substantial resources, including management time, to mitigating the worst effects of the COVID-19 pandemic including a compassionate approach to council tax and business rate collection.

Over the coming months the council will be taking action to improve the current financial situation including reviewing land and other assets – including those outside the borough – and changes to internal structures and staffing levels. The council is also looking closely at senior grades and how services can be more efficient and provide better value for money. Josie Wragg added: "There is no quick fix. This will be a long process. We were on the wrong path financially, but we are committed to making the changes needed and as officers, working with the political leadership and government to reduce disruption as much as is possible."

The Director of Finance, Steven Mair – who is responsible for the council's finances – today wrote to all councillors advising them of the Section 114 notice and the formal steps now required. The formal steps outlined in the procedure are:

- a letter from the Section 151 officer (the Director of Finance) to all councillors advising them of the Section 114 notice
- a response from the Chief Executive
- a council meeting to be held within three weeks (July 22) to discuss the notice, response and actions being taken to meet the financial challenges.

Councillor James Swindlehurst, leader of the council, said: "The process of repairing council finances continues and our commitment to the provision of essential services remains unchanged: bins will still be collected, potholes still filled, care still provided to our most vulnerable. "We have had a team forensically scouring our financial statements and processes. To back up the commitment to better financial management, at the May council meeting, I took on the portfolio as part of cabinet and involved all the lead members in discussions to secure our financial future. "Some of the issues being found go back several years, but this cabinet, appointed in May, will make the decisions required and put the council on a sustainable footing. "The journey we have been undertaking with the transformation and restructure has helped us identify priorities for our communities and concentrate on what is required for Slough residents, businesses and the town as a whole. "We will continue to engage all residents and other stakeholders in the ongoing improvements to our council finances."

## Standards and Testing Agency

### Reminder: reception baseline assessment preparation

Your school should by now have everything you need for the [Reception Baseline Assessment \(RBA\)](#), which will be statutory in schools from September 2021. You should have received your physical resources for the RBA, as well as login details and passwords to access the Baseline ePortal (BeP).

All staff involved in the RBA, can now prepare for the assessment by exploring the BeP and accessing the training materials. These include a set of short videos explaining key aspects of the assessment and a preview assessment showing all of the RBA tasks.

Practitioners will need to familiarise themselves with these training materials before they begin to administer assessments.

If your school has not received physical resources or login details, please contact the RBA helpline on 0330 088 4171 or email [receptionbaseline@nfer.ac.uk](mailto:receptionbaseline@nfer.ac.uk).

## News and events



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**How will you  
Boycott  
your Bed?**

**Ditch the duvet. Banish the blanket. Pack the pillow.**

On Friday 9 July, join forces with family, friends or colleagues to raise money by spending the night in the most unusual place you can think of.

Wherever you sleep, the money you raise can help make dreams of a safe and happy childhood come true.

[Register now](#)

Referred by a Byte Night or Boycott your Bed board member?  
[Register here](#)

### What is Boycott your Bed?

Boycott your Bed is back. On Friday 9 July, we're challenging you to raise money by spending the night in the most unusual place you can think of.

Will you camp out under the stars or under the stairs? Bunk down in the bathroom or the back garden? Wherever you choose to lay your head, you'll be helping vulnerable children and families in desperate need.

Boycott your Bed and bring hope to vulnerable UK children hit hardest by the pandemic.

[Boycott your Bed | Action for Children](#)



## What is the Summer Reading Challenge

Every year Slough Libraries with many libraries across the country joins The Reading Agency to encourage children to read more books throughout the summer holidays. Studies have proven it is important for children to keep reading throughout the holidays so children don't experience a dip in their reading levels in the autumn term.

The summer reading challenge is a chance to read for fun and try something new and challenging. Each year there is a theme.

Like last year, there will be an online challenge and also ways to get involved in your local library. There are often little incentives like stickers to collect and children completing the challenge are given a certificate and medal.

Ask in your local library in July to find out more or check out the [Reading Agency's Summer Reading Challenge site](#)

[Slough Library information click here](#)

