

Children and Families, Early Years Division Weekly News Bulletin: 22.09.21



Department
for Education

The Children's Commissioner's The Big Ask...and The Big Answer

Earlier this year, The Children's Commissioner asked all children in England to complete a survey, to show the true voice of this generation. The results are in and The Children's Commissioner would like to say thank you. Over half a million children responded, the largest survey of its kind in history, and at a landmark moment for young people growing up in this country.

At a critical time, as we emerge from the pandemic, children have told us how the past year has affected them and what needs to happen now to put them at the heart of the recovery. Despite the sacrifices they have made, the majority of children say they are happy.

Children were united – they told us they want to get back to school, to get on, and do well. To have fulfilling lives. Children cared deeply about their family, their communities, their wellbeing and are an ambitious, excited generation. They want to make a contribution to a better world, a greener world, rooted in fairness of opportunity for everyone. The Children's Commissioner is now making sure children are being heard.

You can read the full [report](#) and use the [resources](#) to share the results with your pupils and students.

Reminder to complete the educational setting status form

Thank you to those schools and colleges that have been completing the educational setting status form from the start of your autumn term. If your school or college has not yet submitted any information, please do resume completing the [educational setting status form](#) each day by 2pm.

We are asking you to continue to submit your attendance data daily throughout September, so we can monitor attendance in schools and colleges after the summer break.

We have made some changes to the form to align with the latest guidance for [schools](#) and [colleges](#), however, this does not impact the way that you complete the form. We have updated the questions on COVID-19 related absence and have added a new set of questions about managing COVID-19 in your school or college.

Further information on completing the educational setting status form, including an updated set of attendance sub-codes, can be found in our [guidance](#).

Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak: 23 March 2020 to 16 September 2021

A summary of attendance in education settings up to 16 September 2021.
Updated: 21 September 2021

[Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak, Week 38 2021 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Early years settings:

The early years local authority survey resumed on 16 September for the start of the 2021/22 academic year. We estimate 697,000 children were attending early years childcare settings on Thursday 16 September 2021 – about 54% 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 Autumn term we expect attendance to be 912,000. We estimate that the 697,000 children currently attending early years settings is approximately 76% of the usual daily level.

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 23 and 30 August.
Updated: 20 September 2021

As of 30th August; 943 cases had been recorded; read the full figures here
[Reported coronavirus \(COVID-19\) notifications by registered early years and childcare settings - GOV.UK \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Early years and childcare providers must [notify Ofsted of any serious illness or accident](#) to a child in their care. This includes a confirmed case of coronavirus in the setting.

Providers must notify Ofsted as soon as reasonably practical, and in any case within 14 days of the incident occurring. Notifications received in one week could represent confirmed cases which occurred during the 2 previous weeks.

If there are multiple reported cases at a setting at one time, a notification can include more than one confirmed case. This means that the number of notifications received does not necessarily correlate with the number of confirmed cases in a setting.

The data is accurate at the time of publication and may be updated at a later date if we receive delayed information.

The release will run to December 2021, subject to review.

Providers must follow guidance from Public Health England (PHE) about what to do in the event of a reported case of coronavirus in a setting.

Delivery of specialist one to one and group interventions for children and young people in education settings

We know that COVID-19 has impacted on delivery of specialist services in education settings and, as a result, many have adjusted their delivery models during their recovery. We have worked with education and health partners, including the Royal Colleges and the Association of Educational Psychologists, Chartered Society of Physiotherapists, Association of Colleges, the National Sensory Impairment Partnership, the National Network of Parent Carer Forums and the Council for Disabled Children, to develop [guidance setting out the expectations for the delivery of specialist support for children and young people](#).

We are clear that education settings should welcome all specialist staff and facilitate their work with children and young people. This guidance aims to address any misconceptions around what should be delivered and to provide clarity in three broad areas:

- ensuring full access to provision
- the safety precautions that should be considered
- the importance of working with families and carers

Grants for mental health training courses for senior leaders in schools and colleges

The Department for Education is offering a grant for a senior member of school or college staff to access quality assured training to implement an effective whole school or college approach to mental health and wellbeing in your setting.

Senior mental health lead training is relevant to all education settings, and courses are available to meet the learning needs and preferences of senior leads, whatever their level of experience, type of setting or location. All state-funded schools and colleges are eligible to apply for a training grant.

[Register](#) now to receive notification of when the grant application process opens.

Further information on the grant, eligibility criteria and how to apply can be found in the [guidance on senior mental health lead training](#).

Reminder for all education settings on how to order additional COVID-19 test kit supplies

It is important that you check your inventory of at-home and asymptomatic test site (ATS) test kits regularly to avoid running out of stock. If your stocks are low, you can re-order more test kits via our [online ordering portal](#). Please remember, you need to order by 5pm each Tuesday to secure delivery the following week.

Please contact NHS Test and Trace on 119 for any issues or queries about the supply, ordering or delivery of test kits. The helpline is open 7am to 11pm, Monday to Sunday.

For all other enquiries about the rapid testing programme in education, please continue to contact the DfE COVID-19 helpline on 0800 046 8687. The helpline is open 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday and 10am to 6pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

COVID-19 support

Vaccines for young people

The COVID-19 vaccine is now available to young people aged 12 and above. For healthy 12-15 year olds, the vaccine will primarily be delivered in school by the local school age immunisation service.

- [Guidance and resources available to schools.](#)
- [Resources available to support young people, parents and carers.](#)

Testing resources

Twice weekly rapid COVID-19 testing remains a vital tool in keeping the virus under control. To help encourage students to continue to test at home, please see our [folder full of testing resources](#) including [FAQs](#), [letter templates](#), [training](#), [leaflets](#) and [posters](#).

Key COVID guidance

The [actions for schools to manage COVID-19](#) covers what you need to do during the pandemic. Our [contingency framework](#) is also available outlining the principles for managing a number of positive COVID-19 cases in education settings.

Remote education guidance and resources

Our [get help with remote education page](#) contains many resources to support students who are learning remotely, including [good practice guides](#), [training](#) and [access to funding and technology](#) for those who need it.

Support for parents

Further resources to help you support parents are available including the [return to school parent FAQ leaflets](#) and [government guidance on what parents and carers need to know about attending schools and colleges in 2021](#).

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

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm

Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 6pm

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](#)



[Local area SEND inspections: information for families](#)

Information for families about inspections of local area services for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

Added dates and survey details for an upcoming inspection of Slough Borough Council.
Updated: 20 September 2021

[Local area SEND inspections: information for families - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Slough Borough Council, 27 September to 1 October 2021 ([take part in the Slough Borough Council survey](#) to give your views from midday 20 September until midnight 28 September 2021)

Childminders

[Consented addresses for childminders and domestic childcare](#)

This report details the names and addresses for childminders and childcare on domestic premises, where the provider has consented for their name and address to be published on the Ofsted inspection report website.

Consented addresses for childminders and domestic childcare as at 31 August 2021.
Updated: 15 September 2021

[Consented addresses for childminders and domestic childcare - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)



We are sending out another COVID guidance special in partnership with the Public Health Team and our Schools Covid Programme officer; please check your emails and The Link for regular information and updates to guidance as well as the gov.uk website; and share the advice within your teams and with your families.

In the news

An open letter to education and care professionals from new Education Secretary Nadhim Zahawi



On Wednesday 15 September, the Prime Minister confirmed that [Nadhim Zahawi MP has been appointed](#) as the new Secretary of State for Education.

Nadhim Zahawi, has written to all those working in education and care to introduce himself and thank them for all their work; read here:

["With your help, we are going to transform the lives of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged": an open letter to education and care professionals from new Education Secretary Nadhim Zahawi - The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

Local community news

World River Day 26.09.21

The CCP are working with the Riverside Centre, Slough Anti-Litter Society and Thames21 to take part in the Plasticblitz campaign

It's 2-4pm this Sunday, you don't need to book/sign up; just turn up on the day and bring your own gloves – all the details are on the poster along with the social media handles of organisers in case anyone has questions



World River Day 26-09-21 poster.pdf
