Early Years and Prevention Service

Weekly News Bulletin: 2nd September 2020

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**Parental survey: early years and childcare**

**Calling all parents!**

Slough Borough Council is running a short survey about parents’ plans to use early years and childcare provision in September, following the effects of COVID-19. Please complete the survey if you have children who will be in childcare this September. Please also complete the survey if you have children but do not intend to access provision in September.

To access the survey visit <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KQTGGQ5>. The survey closes on Friday 11th September 2020

For further information about early years and childcare please visit <https://www.slough.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/early-years-and-childcare.aspx> or call the Family Information Service on 01753 476589.

**Early Years: Training and Continuous Professional Development 2020 -2021**

Please note the portfolio has been updated – changes highlighted in blue. <https://thelink.slough.gov.uk/early-years/cpd>

Slough Early Years Service is committed to supporting the sector with training and continuous professional development opportunities. We are constantly reviewing our offer and have recently made some changes to the next annual calendar to take into considerations the impact of COVID-19. We have planned a years worth of networks and training programmes and will continue monitor the offer and consider what changes may be required should the situation change.

You will see that for the autumn term we have scheduled online training and network opportunities (apart from Paediatric First Aid) and we hope to resume face to face meetings from the spring term, COVID dependant.

All of the training that has been scheduled has been based on feedback from the sector but if you are looking for something specific that we haven’t organised please contact us and we will be happy to discuss your requirements, please contact earlyyears@slough.gov.uk or call 01753 476581

<https://thelink.slough.gov.uk/events-and-training?field_event_focus_target_id=362&field_event_type_target_id=All&field_event_date=all>

# What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

Information for parents and carers about going back to schools, nurseries and colleges in the autumn term.

1 September 2020

Updated information about the use of face coverings.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm_source=f6ae3d26-3711-472c-b09f-9186e2b018de&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily#history>

# Employers encouraged to sign up for apprentice cash boost

New incentives launched to help businesses invest in the skills they need to recover and grow.

Employers of all sizes are being invited to [apply for generous cash incentives](https://engage.apprenticeships.gov.uk/Incentives_ApplyNow?utm_source=press&utm_medium=story&utm_campaign=incentives-apply) to help them take on new apprentices and get more people into work, Apprenticeships and Skills Minister, Gillian Keegan has announced today (1 September).

Apprenticeships are a great way to get ahead in a wide range of exciting industries, and they will also play a vital role in delivering the skills employers and the economy need to recover after the coronavirus outbreak.

As part of the [Government’s Plan for Jobs](https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/a-plan-for-jobs-2020), employers are being offered £2,000 for each new apprentice they hire aged under 25, and £1,500 for each newly recruited apprentice aged 25 and over. This includes taking on an apprentice who has been made redundant.

The cash boost is designed to support employers to cover the cost of recruiting an apprentice such as providing facilities, uniforms, helping with travel costs or to help pay their salary.

Continue reading: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/employers-encouraged-to-sign-up-for-apprentice-cash-boost?utm_source=e5a6cda5-f70b-47c4-9023-27dafe9c44ae&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily>

# Changes to the law on education, health and care needs assessments and plans due to coronavirus (COVID-19)

Guidance on temporary changes to special educational needs and disability legislation during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

26 August 2020

Updated guidance to show that the Amendment Regulations will expire on 25 September 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-law-on-education-health-and-care-needs-assessments-and-plans-due-to-coronavirus?utm_source=11cc14f8-9c92-488d-aaaa-cf6733ebfdbc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily#history>

**Ofsted Early Years and Childcare**

[News story: Ofsted to visit nurseries and childminders this autumn](https://www.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=46387df40cbf78623e0679b2f&id=960329716d&e=70d748a98b) - Ofsted will start carrying out visits to some nurseries and childminders from September 2020.
[Education plans from September 2020](https://www.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=46387df40cbf78623e0679b2f&id=39895af01f&e=70d748a98b) - Updated details of early years interim visits and added link to new [early years operational note](https://www.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=46387df40cbf78623e0679b2f&id=499cef2056&e=70d748a98b).
[Joiners and leavers in the childcare sector](https://www.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=46387df40cbf78623e0679b2f&id=567459ce4b&e=70d748a98b) - Management information aggregating monthly joiners and leavers on our registers. A time-series of joiners and leavers includes data since April 2020.
[Consented addresses for childminders and domestic childcare](https://www.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=46387df40cbf78623e0679b2f&id=68bf68a26d&e=70d748a98b) - Updated consented addresses for childminders and domestic childcare as at 31 July 2020.

Subscribe to this newsletter [here](https://www.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=46387df40cbf78623e0679b2f&id=072612a280&e=70d748a98b).

## Ofsted

[Complaints procedure](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted/about/complaints-procedure?utm_source=97274a76-cb13-41f3-827a-0b1f1db51a87&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily)

Page summary
How to make a complaint to Ofsted about services we inspect and/or regulate, or about Ofsted’s representatives or service.

Change made
Updated page to reflect changes to the complaints about Ofsted process.

Time updated
9:30am, 1 September 2020

# Keeping children safe in education

Statutory guidance for schools and colleges on safeguarding children and safer recruitment.

1 September 2020

The September 2020 version of the keeping children safe in education guidance is now in force and replaces previous versions. We have made changes in 3 circumstances:

1. where legislation has required it e.g. reflecting mandatory Relationship Education, Relationship and Sex Education and Health Education from September 2020.

2. where we have helpful additional information that will support schools and colleges protect their children e.g. mental health, domestic abuse, child criminal and sexual exploitation and county lines.

3. important clarifications which will help the sector better understand and/or follow our guidance. A table of changes is included at Annex H.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2?utm_source=936e83f0-b458-4d7d-82cd-3ce68cde0fdf&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily#history>

**Guidance for schools: coronavirus (COVID-19)**

What school leaders, teachers and school staff need to do during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

26 August 2020

Added 'Coronavirus (COVID-19): home test kits for schools and FE providers' to the 'Safe working and protective measures' section.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/guidance-for-schools-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_source=892b1fc5-c7e1-4b77-aeb0-71081f5215d0&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily#history>

## **Updated guidance for schools on full opening from the autumn term**

We have updated our [guidance for schools on full opening from the start of the autumn term](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak?utm_source=1%20September%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19) to provide information on the support available to schools when sourcing supply teachers and details on the framework for supporting transport to and from schools.

We have also provided information on the measures to take when teaching music, the performing arts, sports and physical education in schools and the provision of wraparound care and extra-curricular activities.

## **Provision of food in schools from the start of the autumn term**

From the start of the autumn term, school kitchens will be open and the normal legal requirements will apply regarding provision of food for all pupils who want it. This includes children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals and universal infant free school meals. All food provided should meet the [school food standards](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/standards-for-school-food-in-england?utm_source=1%20September%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19).

If children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals are required to stay at home due to coronavirus (COVID-19), they should be offered meals or food parcels which meet the [school food standards](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/standards-for-school-food-in-england?utm_source=1%20September%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19). These could be offered on a daily or weekly basis and be collected or delivered to the child’s home. All meals should be distributed in line with [guidance on social distancing](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/full-guidance-on-staying-at-home-and-away-from-others?utm_source=1%20September%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19).

Drinking water must also be provided free of charge at all times to registered pupils on the school premises. Schools should consider the most appropriate way to do this if, for public health reasons, pupils do not have access to water fountains. Schools should take steps to limit the use of single-use plastic water bottles.

Further information is available in the [guidance on providing school meals during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance?utm_source=1%20September%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19).

## **Guidance for schools on local restrictions**

All pupils, in all year groups, will return to school full time from the beginning of the autumn term. We have asked that every school plans for the possibility of local restrictions and how they will ensure continuity of education in exceptional circumstances where there is some level of restriction applied to education or childcare in a local area. The Department of Health and Social Care has updated their [Contain framework](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/containing-and-managing-local-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreaks/covid-19-contain-framework-a-guide-for-local-decision-makers?utm_source=1%20September%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19) to include an overview of the tiers of intervention for educational settings when managing local outbreaks and implementing restrictions. These ‘tiers of intervention’ will ensure that extensive limitations on education and childcare are a last resort, and that priority is given to vulnerable children and children of critical workers for face-to-face provision in all cases.

If required, Tier 2 intervention would require secondary schools to adopt a rota system and further education colleges to limit on-site attendance, whilst all other settings, including alternative provision and special schools, remain fully open. We have published [guidance for schools on tier 2 local restrictions](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-schools-can-plan-for-tier-2-local-restrictions?utm_source=1%20September%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19) to help decision makers plan for a tier 2 rota model if required.

## **Coronavirus Act 2020 – Notices to temporarily remove or relax statutory requirements in education and childcare**

The Secretary of State for Education has previously issued notices, under the Coronavirus Act 2020, to temporarily remove or relax specified statutory requirements (and provisions in academy arrangements). The most recent notices were issued on 28 July 2020. The specified period in which those notices applied was from 1 August 2020 to 31 August 2020.

The Secretary of State for Education has reviewed the notices and decided to issue new notices with the same effect (applying from 1 September 2020 to 30 September) to:

|  |
| --- |
| * [modify pupil registration requirements](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modification-notice-school-registration-legislation-changes?utm_source=1%20September%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19) so that a child is not to be registered as a pupil at a school merely because education is provided for them at the school on a temporary basis for reasons connected with the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.
* [disapply the duty on Ofsted](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disapplication-notice-school-inspections-legislation-changes?utm_source=1%20September%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19) to undertake routine inspections of state-funded schools within prescribed intervals. Duties on other bodies to provide a statement of action and relating to the inspection of collective worship and denominational education are also disapplied.
 |

We will continuously review whether these notices are an appropriate and proportionate action in all the circumstances relating to the incidence or transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). Further notices may be made as a result.

**HMRC Changes to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme from 1st September**

From 1‌‌ September HMRC will now pay **70%** of usual wages up to a cap of £2,187.50 per month for the hours furloughed employees do not work.

**What you need to do now**

* Continue to pay your furloughed employees at least 80% of their usual wages for the hours they do not work, up to a cap of £2,500 per month. **You will need to fund the difference between this and the CJRS grant yourself.**
* The caps are proportional to the hours not worked. For example, if your employee is furloughed for half their usual hours in September, you are entitled to claim 70% of their usual wages for the hours they do not work up to £1,093.75 (50% of the £2,187.50 cap).
* Continue to pay furloughed employees’ National Insurance and pension contributions from your own funds.

**Make sure your data is right**

It’s important that you provide all the data we need to process your claim. Payment of your grant may be at risk or delayed if you submit a claim that is incomplete or incorrect, so we want to help you get this right. We will get in touch if we see any employee data missing from your previous claims.

**Claiming for 100 or more employees: use our template**

It’s really important to use the right file type when uploading your data. The easiest way to ensure your file is in the right format is to use our template. To find it search ‘download a template if you're claiming for 100 or more employees through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme’ on GOV‌.UK.

If your file is in the wrong format – for example, an incorrect file type or too many or too few columns – it may be rejected. If your file is rejected, you’ll receive a message to say it has not been accepted and your claim will not be processed.

**Fraudulent claims**

We have started to investigate CJRS claims where fraud is suspected. We will be paying particular attention to claims that differ from the PAYE data we hold and where we have received reports of fraud. Employees are encouraged to report their employer if they have reason to believe that they are abusing the scheme. They can do this anonymously if they prefer. For more information go to GOV‌.UK and search 'report fraud to HMRC'.

**More information**

Guidance and live webinars offering you more support on changes to the scheme and how they impact you are available to book online – go to GOV‌.UK and search 'help and support if your business is affected by coronavirus'.

Our phone lines and webchat are still very busy, so the quickest way to find the support you may need is on GOV‌.UK. This will leave our phone lines and webchat service open for those who need them most.

# Providing apprenticeships during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

This document sets out guidance for apprentices, employers, training providers and assessment organisations in response to the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19).

1 September 2020

Updated information on routine funding audits. Added resources about redundancy for employers and apprentices and information on the use of face coverings.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-apprenticeship-programme-response?utm_source=28c187f3-adb2-493a-9ad5-d366d4df40fd&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily>

## **Guidance for schools and local authorities on improving school attendance**

We have published new guidance for schools and local authorities to support them to [improve school attendance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-attendance/framework-for-securing-full-attendance-actions-for-schools-and-local-authorities?utm_source=2%20September%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19). This guidance sets out the principles underpinning an effective whole school strategy for attendance and provides actions that school leaders, teachers, attendance staff and local authorities may consider taking to improve attendance for all pupils, pupils at risk of persistent absence, and pupils who are persistently absent.

This guidance is intended as optional support to schools as they return to full attendance from the start of the autumn term and carry out any re-assessment of attendance policies and practice.

## **Devices available for children who cannot attend school due to coronavirus (COVID-19)**

The Department will provide more [laptops and tablets for disadvantaged children to access remote education](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-laptops-and-tablets-for-children-who-cannot-attend-school-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_source=2%20September%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19) if local coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions are required. Devices are also available for disadvantaged and clinically extremely vulnerable children who are shielding or self-isolating following official public health advice.

We have written to local authorities and academy trusts to let them know they can now choose to let schools order their own devices. If your local authority or academy trust makes you responsible for ordering, you will get an email with details about nominating contacts and [how to order](https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/devices/how-to-order?utm_source=2%20September%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19).

In the meantime, we recommend schools prepare by thinking about who in the school is best suited to place orders for devices, and by reading more about [which pupils will be allocated devices](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-laptops-and-tablets-for-children-who-cannot-attend-school-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_source=2%20September%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19#information-for-schools-academy-trusts-and-local-authorities).

Find out more about the [Get help with technology programme](https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/?utm_source=2%20September%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19).