

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information Sheet 4 - Governance 2 June 2020



The Local Authority (LA) continue to circulate communications via email, to leaders in schools. These updates contain up-to-date information for schools. All Covid-19 Schools Updates can be viewed on the Cumbria County Council (CCC) website: <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/coronavirus/education.asp>. There are also regular updates released by [Department for Education](#) and [National Governance Association](#).

The information and guidance contained within this document highlights recent updates for the attention of all governors.

Letter from Cumbria County Council, Director of Public Health

On 29 May 2020 CCC Director of Public Health, Colin Cox published a letter to schools. The letter provides public health advice about the current situation in Cumbria in order to inform schools' decision making about opening to more pupils from 1 June:

[Letter from Colin Cox](#)

Priority groups for reopening schools

Following the formal review of lockdown, the government has confirmed that its five tests have been met for the phased reopening of schools. Settings must complete a risk assessment **prior** to opening in any capacity.

Primary Schools

As from 1 June 2020 schools can plan a phased reopening. The expectation continues to be that children are prioritised for the allocation/offer of places according to the following criteria:

- Vulnerable Children
- Children of Key Workers
- Any new children from these first groups
- Any children from the Year groups outlined in the Prime Minister's speech (nursery, reception, Y1 & Y6) and subsequent DfE guidance who can *safely* be accommodated (*the risk assessment will determine numbers of pupils who can be supported in school at any one time, and this number should be the absolute limit, regardless of the above*).

Secondary Schools

As from 15 June 2020, the government is asking secondary schools to:

- provide some face-to-face contact for some Year 10 and Year 12 students.
- continue providing provision for vulnerable pupils in all year groups (including year 10 and year 12)
- continue providing provision for children of critical workers in all year groups (including year 10 and year 12)
- provide some face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of year 10 and year 12 pupils, with a clear expectation that remote education will continue to be the predominant form of education delivery for these year groups and that this should be of high quality
- continue to use best endeavours to support all other pupils remaining at home, making use of the available remote education support and ensuring a high quality offer.

Liability

In response to a number of queries in relation to liability, we can confirm that, for all LA maintained schools, the County Council's corporate liability insurance will provide indemnity against COVID-19 claims which may arise from staff and third parties (e.g. pupils, parents, visitors, etc.), should any arise.

Non LA maintained schools should find that their own liability insurance will do the same, but the advice is for individual schools to verify this with individual providers.

Exclusions

In addition to the statutory guidance on exclusions, the government has produced some [new regulations](#) in relation to exclusions, to give greater flexibility to schools, parents and LAs during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. They apply to all maintained schools, academies (including alternative provision academies but excluding 16 to 19 academies) and pupil referral units (PRUs).

Extension of temporary measures

DfE have announced that changes to the following regulations that have been implemented due to covid-19, have been extended until the 30 June 2020:

- [Attendance](#)
- [School Inspections](#)
- [Education, Health and Care Plans](#)