

# Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information Sheet 8 - Governance 16 July 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](#) (DfE) and [National Governance Association](#) (NGA).

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

## **Risk Assessment guidance**

DfE guidance states that schools and settings must review their risk assessments to ensure that the additional control measures that are required are included and implemented in line with the latest guidance. CCC have consulted with trade unions and have released [risk assessment guidance](#) for schools and settings ahead of fully re-opening in September.

All CCC maintained schools and settings must use the County Council Health and Safety guidance and risk assessment proforma materials, rather than from any other provider.

## **Staff, pupil and parent views about the return to school**

CCC have provided two unbranded template questionnaires – one for staff and one for pupils and parents – which schools may wish to use in order to help them understand people's concerns and collect ideas about their support needs.

These are entirely optional, and the LA will not be collating the data from them. It is hoped that they will prove useful in school planning and that staff will feel supported by their use. The scaling questions from them could be repeated later on, if required:  
Staff questionnaire  
Pupil/parent questionnaire.

### **Flexibility to carry forward PE and sport premium funding**

As a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, the DfE has taken steps to relax the ring-fencing arrangements for the PE and sport premium in the 2019 to 2020 academic year to allow any unspent grant to be carried forward into the next academic year (2020 to 2021). Where schools are carrying forward under-spends, their published online report should set out the amount being carried forward and give brief reasons for this under-spend.

DfE guidance on the use of PE and sport premium for primary schools is available [here](#).

### **Ofsted plans for the Autumn term**

Following the announcement that inspections are suspended until January 2021, Ofsted has released further information about their [plans for the autumn term](#). Ofsted will start to visit schools from September 2020 to reassure parents, ministers and the public about how schools are managing the return to full education of their pupils and students. As part of a full programme being rolled out in October, all 'inadequate' schools will be visited, along with a "sample" of schools with other grades. Ofsted will use the visits to hold collaborative discussions with school leaders, the outcomes of which will be published in a brief letter so that "parents can understand what steps are being taken to help children back into full time education". The outcomes of the visit will not be graded.

### **Temporary changes to SEND legislation to cease**

DfE has confirmed that the temporary [changes made to aspects of SEND](#) law through the Coronavirus Act 2020 will cease on 31 July 2020. The temporary changes modified the duty on local authorities to secure special educational provision and on health commissioning bodies to arrange health care provision in accordance with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP), so that they can discharge this by using their 'reasonable endeavours'.

Further national notices in relation to EHCP modifications will not be published unless evidence suggests otherwise. Although there may be a need for local flexibilities in response to any local outbreaks or local lockdowns.

### **Behaviour and attendance checklist**

DfE has published a behaviour and attendance checklist for school leaders to support full school opening in September, following the COVID-19 outbreak.

As set out in the full opening guidance, schools and their partners, including local authorities, will need to work with families to ensure all pupils attend school regularly and have the right behaviour policies and practices in place, ahead of welcoming all pupils back this autumn. The checklist is a tool for mainstream schools to support the re-engagement of pupils and the return to orderly and calm environments in which all pupils can achieve and thrive.

School leaders can use the checklist to develop their own plans, in a way that works for their pupils' needs and school context.

### **Guidance for further education (FE) providers**

DfE has updated guidance for further education providers during the coronavirus outbreak on maintaining education and skills training, changes to funding arrangements, data collections and assessment.

### **Digital Devices**

CCC have a number of devices remaining from its allocation for eligible children and young people with a social worker after the initial phases of distribution. As before, where a device has not been provided, but a school believes there is a strong case to provide a device (perhaps because the circumstances of a child or young person have changed over the last few weeks since the initial assessment was undertaken), please contact the child or young person's social worker to discuss this, as they will need to make an assessment and inform the project team if a device is to be provided.

The project team can be contacted via the dedicated e-mail address ([COVID19.DigitalDevices@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:COVID19.DigitalDevices@cumbria.gov.uk)) which has been established for direct communication with individual schools, or if schools have any queries. This email address is not intended for children and young people, parents/carers, or the general public.

### **Financial support for education, early years and children's social care**

Following recent changes in furlough payments the DfE has updated guidance which provides details of support and government funding for education, early years and children's social care.

### **Exceptional costs associated with coronavirus (COVID-19)**

DfE have updated School funding: exceptional costs associated with coronavirus (COVID-19). Information has been added about costs relating to the summer holidays that are not covered by the national voucher scheme, and ordering vouchers for the summer holidays. For costs relating to the summer holidays that are not covered by the Covid Summer Food Fund, schools will be able to claim for this in the Autumn term.

### **Summer holiday activity directories**

To support parents and carers looking for childcare and activities, for children of all ages, during the school summer holidays 2020, CCC and partners have launched an online directory for each district of Cumbria which lists local options for holiday camps, childcare providers and other support services and activities.

It is hoped the directories makes it easier for parents and carers to find information about available services, they can be found at <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/childrenandfamilies/cfis/>. The directories will be updated on a regular basis.

The Children and Families Information Service Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/ChildrenandFamiliesInformationService>) page will be used as the principal way of providing updates and signposting parents to the directories going forward. Schools are being encouraged to share content from this page on their own school social media pages.

There is further guidance for parents about attending out of school settings available on the government website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>.