

# COVID19 Education Continuity Newsletter

The current UK government position is that all schools remain open. Given that the situation is changing rapidly, the response to questions may change. A change in response will be highlighted, when this is the case. The Education, Learning and Skills team will produce a weekly Education Continuity Newsletter.

## Ofsted Deferrals

Ofsted have announced, 'Regarding the Coronavirus of 2020. Ofsted is working closely with the Department for Education and monitoring the situation day by day. In line with current government advice, normal inspection activity should be maintained as far as possible. However, the spread of the virus presents serious challenges for providers that are affected. In line with the potential for this to be an 'exceptional circumstance' we will undertake a risk-assessment with the providers on announcement of the inspection. This will give the leaders/managers of providers the opportunity to inform Ofsted about any current coronavirus impact on their provision. Using this information, an assessment will be made and a deferral decision reached where appropriate. Where inspections go ahead, inspectors will be sensitive to increases in user absence, or absence of key staff, and will reflect inspection report.'



The updated deferral policy can be found [here](#).

## Attendance Info

Where a pupil cannot attend school due to illness, the pupil should be recorded as absent in the attendance register and the school will authorise the absence. Code I (Illness) should be used in this instance.

Where a pupil is in self-isolation, in accordance with latest information and advice from Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England, the pupil should be recorded as unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances in the attendance register. Code Y (Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances – authorised absence) should be used in this instance.

It makes sense for all family members living in the same house to take the same precautions, but what each family decides is down to them based on their individual circumstances. Where pupils are absent because family members are in isolation, this should also be coded as Y. Schools should not usually be using the O code (Unauthorised Absence, not covered by any other code/description). Common sense and professional judgement should be applied by Headteachers when deciding how to code absence.

## 5 Lessons from a school in lockdown – Italian School

As the threat of Coronavirus spreads and the Government has announced a move to the 'delay' phase of the pandemic, virtual schools and online learning are becoming more widespread.

Read more about how a school in Italy has prepared to be an e-learning school and gone through a steep learning curve...

<https://www.tes.com/news/coronavirus-5-lessons-school-lockdown> 5 Lessons...

- 1) Willingness of staff
- 2) Reality of the whole situation
- 3) Complete overhaul of planning
- 4) Need for time management and limitations of staff
- 5) Importance of face-to-face contact



## Free School Meals Provision

If schools have to close, families who receive free school meals may struggle. Schools can signpost families to local foodbanks and often communities are offering outreach to vulnerable people, delivering essential items and offering support. These are often published on social media.

### Useful links:

Food Support: <https://oneyou.southglos.gov.uk/eat-well/food-poverty-support/>

Feeding Britain <https://feedingbritain.org/>

Foodbank, Thornbury <https://www.southglos.gov.uk/documents/Food-Bank-Thornbury2-2016.pdf>

Foodbank, Yate and Chipping Sodbury  
<https://www.southglos.gov.uk/documents/Food-Bank-Yate-CSodbury3-2016.pdf>

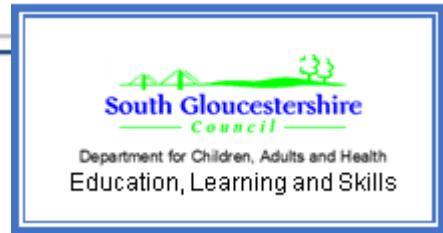
Foodbank, Downend <https://www.resoundbristol.co.uk/foodbank>

North Bristol Food Bank (St Chad's church)  
<https://northbristol.foodbank.org.uk/>



The latest measures announced on 12<sup>th</sup> March include the advice for people to self-isolate for seven days. Public Health England is the most appropriate source for up to date guidance on this: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>

Where possible, staff should contact their school by 4pm the day before, to advise they will be absent, or by 7.30am on the day of absence.



## Education, Learning and Skills Contacts and Processes

### Headteacher Contacts- school closures and Self-Isolation

We would like to request that any Headteacher who becomes ill or is self isolating or has taken the decision to close, please inform Andrew Best [andrew.best@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.best@southglos.gov.uk) and Faye Bertham and [faye.bertham@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:faye.bertham@southglos.gov.uk) via email to ensure we can advise and support you.

If you have a significant number of staff self-isolating, please also let Andrew and Faye know to enable us to offer support.

Schools are also asked to update the [school closure system](#) as they would if a school closed for snow etc.

### Task Groups and LA Reviews

In the short term before Easter, if you are a Priority School within the Local Authority we will not be conducting any reviews of schools to enable us to support our internal processes in managing our response to Covid-19.

Schools that have task groups at this stage, whilst schools retain open, these will continue to take place but may be done through Skype or other remote means.

### Meetings and training events

We advise that non-essential meetings and training events are cancelled, so that leaders can keep their focus on responding to the evolving situation and in responding effectively to their business continuity plans.

## NAHT Information and FAQs

The NAHT message to members is to follow government and the relevant Public Health England advice.

Many of the questions school leaders have are answered on the government's website which is being updated daily:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

Following the Prime Minister's public health statement on Coronavirus on 12 March, you can find all the latest information here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

The current NAHT FAQs can be found [here](#)

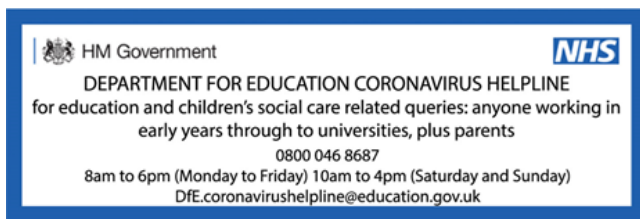


## What about pay and sick pay when absent from work?

School employees covered by the Burgundy Book (teachers) and Green Book (support staff) sick pay schemes are entitled to full pay for absence when they are required to be absent due to infectious illness, as well as when they are required under guidance to be in self-isolation and this absence does not count against sick pay entitlements.

Soulbury-paid employees are covered by the Green Book sick pay scheme. Sixth form college teachers' entitlements match the Burgundy Book, but support staff entitlements do not fully match the Green Book provisions. FE college staff and staff in academies which do not follow the Burgundy and Green Book schemes will need to check their contracts and check with their employer if necessary.

It is expected that all employers will provide full pay for all such absence, in line with ACAS advice, whether or not the employee is covered by the above schemes. Otherwise, employees may simply try to attend work, increasing the risk of transmission. Employers should also disregard such absence for the purpose of sickness absence management policies.



There is an expectation wherever possible, that students can access learning remotely. Here are some ideas to support schools in this process.

## E-Learning Curriculum Sharing Best Practice

### Twinkl

Twinkl is offering every teacher in England, access to all Twinkl resources with a one month ultimate membership. We are also extending this to every parent, carer and pupil.

Go to [www.twinkl.co.uk/offer](http://www.twinkl.co.uk/offer) and enter code UKTWINKLHELPS. This applies to new members.

### Google Classroom

Google Classroom is a free web service, developed by Google for schools, that aims to simplify creating, distributing, and grading assignments in a paperless way. The primary purpose of Google Classroom is to streamline the process of sharing files between teachers and students.

[https://edu.google.com/products/classroom/?modal\\_active=none](https://edu.google.com/products/classroom/?modal_active=none)

### Show Me app

Join the fastest growing EdTech community.  
Create beautiful tutorials with the tap of your finger.  
ShowMe is the easiest way to create & share lessons on your iPad, Android tablet or Chromebook

<https://www.showme.com/>

### White Rose Maths

White Rose Maths have been busy planning some free packages for school sif they have to close. These will be released from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March. They include video tutorials ad access to their premium content. <https://whiterosemaths.com/>

### BBC

Digital learning resources for primary and secondary  
[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/4\\_11/site/literacy.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/4_11/site/literacy.shtml)

### Social Media - Twitter and Facebook

Use your twitter feed or Facebook account to post updates on school closures, story time videos, assemblies, question of the day, links to learning and more. These will need to be accessed through parent accounts but this keeps parents up to speed on developments and curriculum learning approaches.

## E-Learning Schools in South Glos

In South Gloucestershire, we are keen to share innovative ideas for remote learning and e-learning schools.

We will disseminate these ideas to all schools.

Please email your ideas to our School Improvement Team at:

[Faye.bertham@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:Faye.bertham@southglos.gov.uk) and  
[Andrew.best@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.best@southglos.gov.uk)

### You Tube

If you'd like to have your very own Youtube channel for your school, you'll be glad to know creating it is merely minutes away. You're among the many school communicators embracing the value and potential of using video to depict their school.

As more and more schools launch Facebook pages, Twitter feeds and Instagram accounts, Youtube is gaining traction as the natural way to tell their school stories in what's perhaps everyone's favorite medium - short videos. Follow these four simple steps, and you'll have your school channel up and running in no time.  
<https://www.campussuite.com/blog/create-youtube-channel-for-your-school>

### Making best use of your website

Ensure your website is kept up to date daily – who updates this and how will the information be uploaded? Consider how your website can link to other platforms for e-learning.