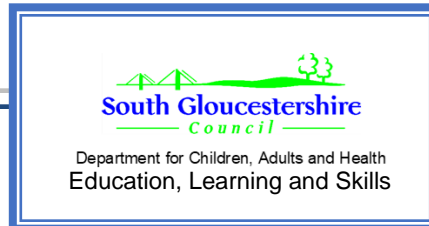


# COVID-19 Education Continuity Newsletter



## Issue 10: 21<sup>st</sup> April 2020

Public Health England now has updated the guidance on COVID-19 for educational settings [here](#) Keep checking daily.



### Thanks and Appreciation

In the week before Easter, aware that the NHS would be potentially under pressure locally during the Easter Saturday and Sunday we looked at working with colleagues at providing some provision. Please can we say a huge thank you to Wellsway MAT through SBL who opened throughout the weekend, CLF who offered City Academy as a venue, OAT who offered Bradley Stoke and Bromley Heath Juniors who offered their site also. In addition to Wellsway, we only needed the one site at Bromley Heath in the end and I know the small number of parents that took up the offer really appreciated this. We pass on our thanks to Progressive Sports who supported us in this.

What was striking though was the offers of volunteers across the school system to come in on the weekend and give a few hours up to support this. In total we had over 300 volunteers, which is a huge credit to our South Gloucestershire staff. Please pass on our thanks to them on behalf of the council.

In addition, please can we say a thank you to a number of schools that have taken on pre-school provision on site, with some lowering their age range temporarily to accommodate this, with LA support. This has been recognised nationally and has provided much needed support to key worker families.

We also would like to note the important work that the Raysfield Federation have done in providing places for students from the Independent sector. This again supported the provision of key worker places at a critical time.

There are so many stories like the ones we have shared here but we wanted to just share some as an acknowledgement of the work you are all doing in supporting our children and young people.

### Before and After School Provision

If your school is operating any **before school or after school provision** or are working with a local provider in the delivery of this and may have capacity for more pupils within this, please can you let Andrew Best know. We are having some occasional requests for wraparound care from Key Workers and where we can, we are supporting them in providing localised provision where it is available. We know that this will be quite limited but if this is something that you are offering and where you/the provider is willing to take on additional students, please can you let us know.

DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION CORONAVIRUS HELPLINE  
for education and children's social care related queries: anyone working in early years through to universities, plus parents  
0800 046 8687  
8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday) 10am to 4pm (Saturday and Sunday)  
DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

### Schools Updates

If for any reason your school needs to close at any point, please can you inform both Andrew Best and Tanya Smith for planning purposes. We have had a few schools that have needed to close for different reasons, normally for short durations but in all these situations we have sourced a nearby local school to continue provision for both vulnerable pupils and key workers. We appreciate that MATs will have their own systems in place and just ask that you let us know for transport arrangements in particular. For our maintained schools though we will support you with this and ensure that pupils that need provision will have this in place.

### Headteacher Wellbeing Update – Issue 2

You can download the full update [here](#) and a copy is attached with this newsletter.

**For information, advice and support about your wellbeing please contact:**

Mark Dee [Mark.Dee@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:Mark.Dee@southglos.gov.uk)

Sarah Godsell [Sarah.Godsell@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:Sarah.Godsell@southglos.gov.uk)

Sarah Rawer [Sarah.Rawet@sgmail.org.uk](mailto:Sarah.Rawet@sgmail.org.uk)

**Local Websites One You South Glos (for over 18s):** Mind You (for young people) Domestic Abuse and Violence (update on services and what's available).



### Yoga anyone?

In response to the many school closures taking place, 'Down Dog' are making all of their apps - Down Dog, Yoga for Beginners, HIIT, Barre, and 7 Minute Workout - completely free; offering free access until July 1st for all students and teachers. To access the free school membership, please register your school's domain by visiting <https://www.downdogapp.com/schools>

### School Staff Wellbeing

Integra HR have developed a useful resource for staff wellbeing and this can be accessed [here](#).



## Maintained Primary Schools Hub Work Term 5 and 6

Firstly, thank you to both our Hub Lead Head teachers, Heads and senior leaders for your unwavering hard work during what has been a really challenging time for schools and us also as a Local Authority. We have prioritised in the first few weeks of this crisis, our response to schools and have at all times, kept our Challenge and Support Partners abreast of our communications. In addition, we know that CSPs have been regularly touching base with you all and I know this will have been appreciated.

At CSP level, we are also now thinking creatively at how CSPs can continue to work with hubs during the Summer Term and have been communicating with both hub leads and CSPs over Easter. We are delighted as a Local Authority in terms of how the Hub model is working, whether through the Alliance or NEXUS and we want to ensure that we don't lose the momentum with this. We have seen the collective spirit and collegiate working come through, once again, in the current crisis and also want to ensure that we support you all in continuing this moving forward.

Sue Morgan and the Integra team have been working really hard over the last few weeks in terms of the security and safety of working remotely at school and CSP level. This work is also about the effectiveness of working remotely and in being realistic in terms of what can be achieved. We are conscious that remote working and electronic communications are different, in particular in terms of screen time, so this will need to be factored in. Integra will be sending out guidance to CSPs in relation to safe online working, which aligns with similar communications that have been sent out to schools.

The following has been shared with both hub leads and CSPs in the first instance. In essence, our CSPs are there to continue their work with you in the Summer Term and what we wanted to do is establish the types of areas that you at Hub level can discuss together in terms of how this might work for you on the ground. These are some suggestions, but you will of course, have some of your own as you work through things:

- It would be good, if appropriate, to meet as Hubs and groups with your CSPs remotely, so that they can support your immediate, medium term and longer term strategy and actions
- There is still traction for Vulnerable Schools or schools in the Ofsted window, to have a virtual visit from the CSP, this could focus more on paperwork but could also allow some 1:1 discussions with senior leaders in areas such as the Curriculum for example, SEND or Safeguarding. This type of work, we would consider as quite important. CSPs could also do a scrutiny of your website and/or wider communications.
- If you are using your CSP for areas of focus and development such as the Curriculum, then this would be a really beneficial investment. If they are supporting you and your colleagues on the ground in terms of curriculum skills progression documents, mapping and where opportunities for transference of skills, this can be really useful. A lot of paperwork can be sent in advance, in this context.
- If CSPs were due to deliver training sessions, then these again could be delivered remotely and actually could be done creatively, depending on how staff are part of a rota system, allowing for more day time training opportunities. There is a real opportunity to maximise the training offer of CSPs and formats such as Skype could deliver this. Most Hubs are offering training programmes and it would be good to continue the momentum with this, if at all possible.
- There may be opportunities within the next two terms, to broker your CSP in, to do some more targeted 1:1 work with leaders and support their professional development, skills and expertise
- There could be traction around completing Head teacher performance reviews in the last two-three weeks of the Summer Term and setting new objectives for 20-21. This would then alleviate what might well be pressure on diaries in the Autumn Term.

This will be a different way of working but we want to make sure that schools are supported and that we try and balance how CSPs are used in the Autumn, by looking at work streams that could be delivered now. Please look at how many allocated days you have for the Summer and how best, considering the above, you may want to use some of the days.

## Maintained Schools (Priority 1 and 2)

We are conscious that in mid-March we made a decision to put on hold Task Groups and Reviews during the start of the Covid-19 lockdown, so that school leaders could rightly focus on managing their response. We hope that this has given the schools the time that they have needed but also know that we have also been there to support you, as appropriate.

We will now be contacting all our maintained schools that are either a Priority 1 or 2 with us, over the next week to arrange a Skype meeting so that we can work with you all in the summer term. This will not be a task group as such, but will be an opportunity for us to discuss with you how the school is progressing through Covid-19 and any actions and support that will need to be put in place in terms 5 and 6, to support the school improvement focus. CSPs will be invited to these meetings also, so that we can join up in terms of a co-ordinated approach.

There will though be no Reviews of schools undertaken during the summer term.

## Covid-19 Additional Costs

We are asking that all schools continue to log any additional, associated costs with Covid-19 that should be supported by the government commitment around reimbursing schools. This will include:

- Any costs arising from accessing vouchers during the time that there were issues with the government Edenred E-Voucher System
- Any PPE that has been procured by individual schools for staff when supporting children who have intimate care needs
- Additional cleaning costs, including deep cleans, when schools have had short periods of enforced closure

## Ofqual Consultation

We are encouraging schools to engage with Ofqual, particularly where they have Year 10 students who would have sat examinations this summer, where students would have been awarded a GCSE grade ordinarily. Please access the consultation through:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/exceptional-arrangements-for-exam-grading-and-assessment-in-2020>

## Handling complaints during the coronavirus (COVID-19 outbreak)

The DfE does not expect schools to handle new or existing complaints while they are closed. Schools should, however, still engage with parents and pupils where they can. Complaints can be considered once the government confirms schools can safely reopen.

## DfE Support for Digital Devices

The DfE are working on guidance regarding digital devices for disadvantaged and vulnerable children. Details can be found [here](#).

Local authorities, trusts and other relevant organisations overseeing schools will be given guidance on how to place online orders for devices for eligible pupils from Wednesday 22 April. Schools, parents and pupils will not be able to order the devices themselves.

Digital devices for care leavers and children with social workers will be given to local authorities, who will manage distribution to children and young people. Schools may be asked to help manage distribution where appropriate.

Many schools have already taken steps to support virtual learning for vulnerable pupils by providing devices. The virtual school has also been working with leaders to support digital learning deployment. Further information will follow from the LA, once the DfE guidance is published.

## Helping Children with SEND – updated DfE Guidance

Advice for parents and carers looking after children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) can be found [here](#).

## Updated DfE guidance on SEND risk assessments

The government have updated the guidance on risk assessing SEND pupils. This was published on 19<sup>th</sup> April and can be found [here](#).

## Integra HR Staffing FAQs

Integra HR have put together some useful COVID-19 staffing FAQs and this includes some joint union advice. Full documents have been sent via email to subscribing schools.

### Example questions that are answered include:

- What should I do about casual/supply staff? Should they be paid?
- What should I do about agency workers? Should they be paid?
- An employee who resigned has come to me and asked if I can accept them withdrawing their resignation and then furlough them – what should I do?
- Should I be making a weekly sickness return?
- Can I contact staff to check what their status is if they aren't rota'd to work?
- Can an employee take on a second job whilst working from home or not being rota'd to work?
- What should I do about sickness cases?
- What should I do about disciplinary cases?
- What should I do about capability cases?
- Can the school dismiss anyone in the current climate?
- What should I do if the school were needing to make staffing reductions this year?
- What should I do about recruitment which is either in process or planned?
- What should I do about apprenticeships?
- How should I pay any staff who worked during Easter and opted to be paid?