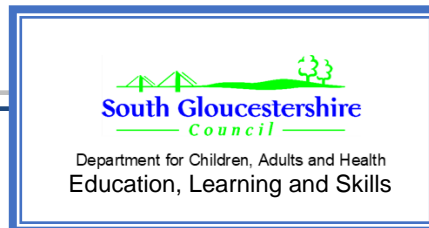
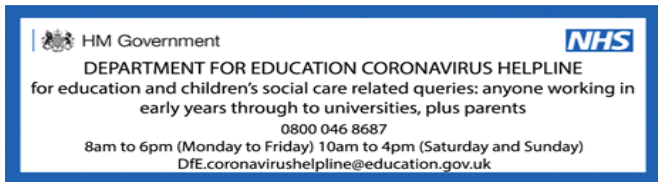


COVID19 Education Continuity Newsletter



Issue 3: 19th March 2020



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

Online Learning Working Group

We are in the process of setting up an online learning steering group with a small group of Headteachers and Education, Learning and Skills staff.

We have already received some excellent ideas and resources from Headteachers across South Gloucestershire. Colleagues are really keen to support each other during these testing times and your strength of leadership is really shining through – thank you!

If you have any other ideas and resources you would like to share, please email: andrew.best@southglos.gov.uk

Home to school transport

In order to plan provision for Monday, we will require details of transport requirements without delay. In order to ensure that we respond to Government requirements to maintain access to education for vulnerable children and enable key workers to continue to work, we will endeavour to maintain home to school transport provision for eligible children. Colleagues in the Council's Integrated Transport Unit are working with transport contractors to ensure that all routes continue to run where possible.

To support planning of provision for this emergency situation, we are requesting that all schools provide details of children requiring school places from Monday 23 March – Friday 3 April 2020. We will also require this for the longer term, from 20 April onwards. The actual provision will be subject to driver availability and may be subject to change. Please note that there will be no provision of transport during the Easter holiday period and transport will not be provided for children who may not ordinarily receive free travel.

Please share names and addresses of all your children (we hold details of their travel eligibility) using a password protected file i.e. Word, Excel or PDF. Please send the file and the password separately to CAHBusinessSupportBMR@southglos.gov.uk

School Closures

Schools are asked to update the school closure system as they would if a school closed for snow etc. This is for partial closures and full closures. Please visit this website [here](#) **This needs to be UPDATED DAILY as the website resets overnight. However, we are working with IT to resolve this so that school closure status will remain. For now, please check daily.**

If you have any queries, we have people regularly checking the following email address that can advise you accordingly: Educ.lm@southglos.gov.uk

Free School Meals Update

Schools will close from Monday 23rd March 2020. School leaders, in partnership with catering providers, will now need to plan for catering arrangements. This will include meals for those children who will be attending a school provision (pupils of key workers, pupils known to social care and pupils with an EHCP) and for those pupils who are eligible for free school meals who are staying at home. Government guidelines can be found [here](#).

School leaders will be making their own plans with their providers. If you subscribe to Integra catering service, they have confirmed the following:

- Packed lunches will be delivered to schools for all Free school meals children (leaders will need to make arrangements for how these will be distributed for those not in school)
- Packed lunches will be provided for any pupils who are eligible for universal free school meals pupils in EYFS and KS1 who are attending school that day. We are working on estimated numbers here but we are assured that there will be enough lunches for these pupils.
- Each school will have a member of the integra catering team on hand to assist with the distribution of packed lunches over the lunchtime period.
- Other pupils who are attending school but who are not eligible for FSM or UFSM are asked to bring a packed lunch.

We will be reviewing lunch numbers after the first two days and in this respect the Integra staff will be recording the volume of meals used to enable the Integra team to plan for the rest of the week.

Support for pupils with SEND

We are receiving some emails from SENCOs who are responding to the call to action with such positivity and volunteering to support pupils with SEND if their school doesn't require them, to add capacity to others. Please email Faye Bertham faye.bertham@southglos.gov.uk who will be keeping a list.

The 0-25 team, Inclusion Support and Behaviour Support teams are working together to produce some information sheets for parents/carers and for Heads and SENCOs. The first in what we hope will be a short series will be sent to schools tomorrow 20.03.2020

Headteacher Support

ONE YOU SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE

This is a testing time for school leaders. We want to ensure you feel fully supported whilst managing this difficult situation. Mark Dee is available Monday to Wednesday as a point of contact if you need any practical guidance and support: mark.dee@southglos.gov.uk. If you subscribe to the Heads well-being service, Sarah Rawet is a great source of advice/support: Sarah.Rawet@gmail.org.uk One You South Gloucestershire has a range of mental health and well-being support and this can be found [here](#). Please contact Faye Bertham faye.bertham@southglos.gov.uk and Andrew Best andrew.best@southglos.gov.uk and via email to ensure we can advise and support you on any challenges you may be facing also.

EHCPs and the 0-25 Service

EHC Needs Assessments

The position on EHC Needs assessments is that those which are already in the pipeline, i.e. new requests already received; advice reports in the process of being completed; or advice reports completed they will continue to be taken forward to statutory panel in line with statutory requirements. However, in the current situation, we do not anticipate receiving many new referrals, if any at all, before the start of the new academic year.

Additionally, consistent with Public Health guidance and in order to ensure that plans continue to be issued in a timely manner, we will consider alternative approaches to assessments as necessary. For example, for cases where existing EP Records of Involvement/reports could be used to inform psychological advice, we could possibly obtain further information through Skype/phone calls with members of school staff, parents/carers and potentially children/young people. This may mean that EHC Plans are issued with the proviso that a more complete EP assessment takes place before the first Plan annual review.

Transitions and the Ready Reckoner Project

We have a number of Y11 and Y9 Ready Reckoner transitions and a very small number of Y6 transitions to complete. Securing the necessary EP re-specification assessments and reports in a timely may lead to a delay in completing this work.

In addition to the completion of these processes, there are also pieces of development work which we are looking at and which would benefit from EP involvement:

- annual reviews
- the ready reckoner project
- elements of the South Glos way toolkit and graduated approach.

Information for schools and parents.

The 0-25 service and Educational Psychology service is working to ensure the statutory processes for children with SEND continues in line with statutory requirements. We will continue to run the weekly statutory panel with requests and assessments already submitted, although we anticipate that the number of requests for new assessments will reduce significantly as a consequence of school closures.

Additionally, also as a consequence of the current emergency situation, we may need to explore different approaches including updating psychological advice remotely with parents, schools and possibly children via phone or skype in order to proceed with the assessment. However this would be subject to parental agreement to that approach.

We would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge that this is a very worrying time for everyone and would like to provide assurance that we will endeavour to minimise impact and continue to provide support to schools and parents in meeting children's special educational needs.

Key Contacts:

Access and Response Team – 01454 86 6000 (during working hours)

Emergency duty team – 01454 615165 (out of hours)

Police – 101 for non-urgent issues & 999 if urgent and an immediate response is needed

Domestic Abuse Concerns - Next Link South Glos domestic abuse telephone help lines are open 8:30am – 5:30pm Monday to Friday and 9:30am – 1:00pm on Saturday 0800 4700 280

Mental health support - CAMHS (if young person is currently under CAMHS) – 01454 862431 or if you are concerned that you are not able to keep your child safe or they are not able to keep themselves safe then take them to the Accident & Emergency department at Bristol Children's hospital or call for an ambulance.

Food banks links for families living in South Glos

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

Food banks links for families living in Bristol

<https://www.trusselltrust.org/>

<https://eastbristol.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/how-to-get-help/>

Parents worried about exploitation - <https://paceuk.info/> or for confidential help and advice, call Pace on 0113 240 5226

CHILDLINE – 0800 1111 or visit their website www.childline.org.uk

Samaritans – 116 123

Mental health apps approved by NHS - <https://www.nhs.uk/apps-library/category/mental-health/>

Andrew Hall Safeguarding Guidance

'Should schools have to close the impact will perhaps be felt greatest by the most vulnerable children. I think there are probably two key aspects to consider, food and child protection.'

Please read advise from the Andrew Hall Safeguarding in Schools website as there is some really useful and clear guidance.

<https://www.safeguardingschools.co.uk/covid-19-coronavirus-advice-for-schools/>

Safeguarding In Schools

Protecting Children. Reducing Risk.

01223 929269

Andrew Hall
Specialist Safeguarding Consultant



Mind You Website

Mind You is South Gloucestershire's mental health and emotional wellbeing hub for children and young people. There are also sections for parents/carers and professionals. During the Coronavirus we will be regularly updating the home page with helpful information around services and tips to help with mental health and emotional wellbeing if people are struggling with the social distancing and self-isolation. It is vital we are looking after our mental health as well as our physical health.

<https://sites.southglos.gov.uk/mind-you/>

Top Tips for Home Learning

Shared by one of our South Glos Headteachers

1. Do not over plan. Keep it simple.
2. Communication is Key – write to parents as soon as possible and clearly outline what you are going to do to provide online learning and support for the children during the period of school closure. Ask them to contact the Head (or lead person) with comments, suggestion and feedback at any time. Anxieties will run high so be ready to deal with these (from staff and parents!)
3. Start off with the basics: Maths and English. There is a lot to learn for parents with the technology. If there are many working families, this may prove to be difficult. 4. Keep going with your planned curriculum. Find “online friendly” units that your teachers can do easily online. Encourage your teachers to work together on videos and provide consistency across the year group.
5. Make sure each teacher has contact with their students as soon as possible after school closes. Begin the first week with a simple phone call, before starting weekly Zoom video calls. Ideally the child and a parent/adult should be present. Make a brief record of these conversations – it is good to have some consistency across year groups about what you are asking/discussing with the children – SLT to provide a weekly suggested ‘script’.
6. Have a ‘Video Greeting’ each day that is approximately 2 min (one member of staff for each year group). This video is for the teacher to provide the schedule of what home learning looks like that day and deliver any key messages; the child then knows it is the teacher teaching and assigning work and not the parent. Mix it up - get Headteachers, Deputies, Secretaries, Caretaker, Librarian, PE teacher etc. to record a greeting – the children love to see these familiar faces.
7. Make video inputs for each online lesson (5-10 minutes age appropriately). Talk slowly and give clear instructions. (See guide to Quicktime recording below) Offer children a chance to pause and rewind, or pause and check understanding. Eg. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TQOofWaYCKA8KXt946uCmM6jXNxiW/view>
8. Keep the look of the learning the same/similar throughout the year groups – organise your VLE pages clearly so parents can easily follow what to do. The Use of QR codes is helpful and providing worksheets as PDFs easier for parents to print.
9. Provide parents with a week-long glance and a suggested daily schedule or to do list (don’t assume they will be able to do this themselves – it may also be easier for Mum & Dad to implement if it comes from the teacher!)
10. Post materials to be printed the night before so working parents can get them printed out and give any instructions before they have to go to work.
11. Make specialist classes as enrichment and not “required” like the core subjects. Set them one day a week to be completed, as suits them, within the week. This is to support parents at home who have to work with their children. Specialist teachers should also record video input – especially for languages.
12. Keep the motto with teachers “Are we teaching or are we assigning?” We want as much as possible to represent teaching lessons to students and not just assign work to them.
13. Be sure to have group Zoom calls so students can interact with their peers. We found a weekly class assembly on a set day at a set time worked really well. We also used this as the time to teach/discuss the PSHE unit from that week. Teaching Assistants can join in with these and go into ‘Break Out rooms’ with children to continue discussions.
14. Establish agreements of working hours with teachers..... do not have teachers doing Zoom calls at night. It puts their colleagues who cannot do those calls in a difficult situation. Keep working hours 8:00-5:00 pm, especially for any Zoom calls.

SOUTHGLOSHEAD BLOG – Planning for the gathering storm: Corona Virus

One of our South Glos Headteachers has written a useful blog post to help us weather the storm in these testing times of school leadership. This can be found [here](#).

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



Department for Children, Adults and Health

Robin Hood MAT - Learning Projects

<https://www.robinhoodmat.co.uk/learning-projects/>

Robin Hood MAT have created Learning Projects as a result of the ongoing risk of schools shutting due to the Coronavirus outbreak across the UK. The link above provides a letter to parents and 6 weeks of content for EYFS, KS1, Yr 3&4, Yr 5&6.

Google Classroom - Greenshaw Trust

https://edu.google.com/products/classroom/?modal_active=none

Greenshaw Trust have developed some useful content on how to set up a Google Classroom to use with your students.

Presentation: https://drive.google.com/file/d/10hQFKDFn2JbPBPJ_9zZNA1aj7a2fVX5k/view

You Tube Clips:

<https://t.co/vVJA38VfRf>

<https://t.co/tFfr5xRW1t>

<https://t.co/qyVrO9NZI9>

2 Simple - Free Access

With the outbreak of Coronavirus (Covid-19) now affecting some educational institutions around the world, it is possible that your school may need to close temporarily and we at 2Simple are offering free access to both Purple Mash and Serial Mash for the duration of your closure.

<https://2simple.com/free-access/>

E-Learning Schools in South Glos

White Rose Maths

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

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 and
Andrew.best@southglos.glos.gov.uk

Times Table Rock Stars - Free Access

<https://ttrockstars.com/page/covid19support>

Offering schools free access for 60 days. Lots of fun ways to practise their times tables.

EduBlogs

Our guide will give you insights into how educators around the world are approaching school closures.

Thousands of teachers worldwide are currently sharing snippets of their experiences via social media or their blogs. We've compiled, curated, and built on some common themes and ideas to create this extensive guide

https://www.theedublogger.com/teaching-online-school-closures/?utm_source=Edublogs&utm_campaign=53d3660197-Edublogs_Weekly_14_12_2017_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0417f70ab4-53d3660197-81351920

National Trust – free entry

The NT is keeping gardens and parklands open for people to enjoy, free of charge, to encourage the nation to enjoy open space, whilst observing distancing measures. National Trust 50 things to do... <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/50-things-to-do>
Outdoor activities to do all year round, from watching the sunset to creating some wild art.

Twinkl - Free Access

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 and enter code UKTWINKLHELPS. This applies to new members.