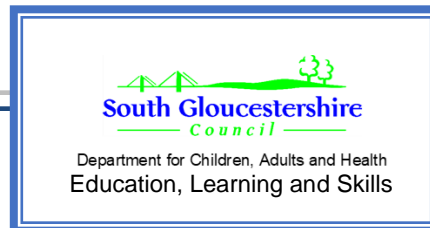
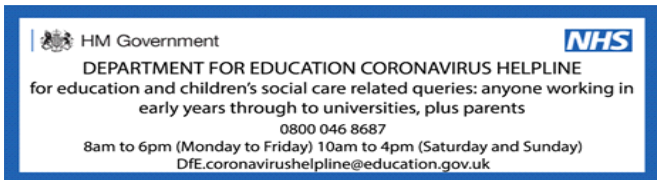


COVID19 Education Continuity Newsletter



Issue 7: 1st April 2020



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

Message from Erica Williams – Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Employment

I would like to thank all our CEOs and Heads of our schools alongside all their staff for their unstinting support since the closure of our schools to the majority of students. Taking the decision to remain open for children of key workers and our vulnerable youngsters is a testament to their dedication and support in a time that is worrying and new to us all. They are helping to keep our communities safe by supporting all key workers, particularly those on the front line of the NHS, care and social care, who we know are striving to deliver the best possible service for those who have been affected by COVID -19.

They deserve our thanks and gratitude.

EHCP Annual Reviews – Please note

The 0-25 service and Educational Psychology service is working to ensure the statutory processes for children with SEND continue 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.

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 will continue to be taken forward to statutory panel in line with statutory requirements.

We note that some SENCOs are now using time available to complete paperwork and to make requests for new EHC needs assessments. However, we would like to stress that it is not helpful to submit new assessment requests in the current emergency situation because of the challenges in obtaining the necessary professional assessment and advice to inform an EHC needs assessment during the Covid19 emergency period. Therefore the 0-25 team will be unable to progress new requests as normal and we would kindly request that SENCOs hold back any new EHC needs assessment requests until we are able to resume normal practice. We will advise (through this newsletter) when we will be taking new requests.

SENsational Learning Resources for Parents and Carers for pupils with SEND

We know that this is a time of adjustment for families, and we hope to give parents and carers advice to support them as much as possible. We have recently launched a range of resources and support for SEND families. These have been produced by working closely with our partners, including [South Glos Parents and Carers](#) and Integra Schools:

The new [SENsational area](#) of the Integra Home Learning website. These are resources chosen specifically to provide support for parents of children with special educational needs

Issue 1 of the 'SENsational learning ideas' [newsletter](#), designed to support parents and carers with learning at home for children

[Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQs) and answers for parents and carers, which cover education, health and social care. These will be updated over time to include additional information based on what we're being asked

A brand new support line and email address for parents and carers - You can contact us with your queries by email:

SENDCOVIDenquiries@southglos.gov.uk or by phone 01454 866123 (staffed between 9am – 1pm Monday to Friday). We aim to respond within 48 hours, and any questions posed to this email will be used to inform the FAQ linked above.

Easter Provision

A really big thank you on behalf of ELS for the returns we have received in relation to Easter provision. We now have all schools covered across the county, which is great. This information is being shared with the Integrated Transport Team who will be providing home to school transport during the Easter period for all children who are ordinarily eligible to receive free assistance with the costs of travel to school. Therefore, if you do, for whatever reason, change the nature of your Easter Provision please can you let Andrew Best and Tanya Smith know, as they are coordinating this at Local Authority level:

Andrew.best@southglos.gov.uk

Tanya.smith@southglos.gov.uk

Vulnerable Pupils

Thank you to you all, for rising to the challenge and working creatively to ensure that where schools can, they are offering Easter provision to vulnerable pupils. We know that the offer to vulnerable pupils for a school place during the Easter holidays will depend on the nature and suitability of the provision. Schools will be working with parents and carers to decide what is in the pupil's best interests. Where schools are operating on a staff rota basis (and staff know the pupils), it will be easier to cater for all vulnerable pupils during this period of time.

Home to school transport is not being routinely provided between host and contributor schools, except where children would ordinarily be entitled and currently receive free assistance with the costs of travel between home to school. If there is any doubt as to a child's eligibility, parents/carers will be encouraged to contact the Admissions and Transport Team via email AdmissionsAndTransport@southglos.gov.uk

DfE Free School Meals Voucher Scheme

We welcome the fact that the government have now put in place a central system for FSM e-vouchers and we do support schools in taking up this offer, which now appears to be a good option.

E-Vouchers

As with other Local Authorities during the Covid-19 outbreak we have tried to support schools, in what has been a period of flux, by providing an offer in relation to e-vouchers but realise that with the central government announcement in the early hours of the morning that this may change your approach. I would also like to thank Sodexo, who have been working around the clock to provide a solution for schools that were interested in pursuing the e-voucher option. I have been liaising with Sodexo this morning in relation to the government announcement and can advise the following:

- Those schools that placed an order will be charged £0.10 per e-voucher number/activation code. **Schools will only be charged the value of the e-voucher by Sodexo if it is redeemed on their website and the supermarket e-voucher is issued.** If you do not issue the e-voucher, the school will not be charged the cost of the supermarket e-voucher.
- It **may** be a good option in the interim to use the e-vouchers through Sodexo, whilst you navigate the government offer, even if you then move to the government offer, we would advise just keeping a log of the e-vouchers redeemed at this stage through Sodexo.
- If you do issue the e-vouchers through Sodexo longer term, the government have stated that they will provide further guidance on how they will compensate schools who incur additional costs in providing free school meals or vouchers to pupils affected by coronavirus (COVID-19). However, as the government are now providing an e-voucher facility that is centrally funded by the DfE, this is likely to be the best option, rather than then being reimbursed. **Our guidance would be therefore to access the national voucher scheme over the coming days if you are wanting an e-voucher solution.**

It may be though, moving forwards, now that we have set up Sodexo as a school supplier, that you may wish to use their services for other incentives at school level once we return to normality <https://www.sodexoengage.com> They have been extremely supportive of us and in finding solutions for schools and we really appreciate that.

School Food Contracts

In line with the government guidance we also suggest that you speak to your catering provider(s) about your arrangements in response to coronavirus (COVID-19), as we know you will have done to date, so thank you. The following is taken from the latest circular: **Coronavirus (COVID-19): free school meals guidance for schools**

'The Cabinet Office has published guidance for public bodies on payment of suppliers that are at risk. Some suppliers may face risks in terms of their financial viability, ability to retain staff, and their supply chains. Public sector contracting authorities must act now to ensure that suppliers that are at risk are in a position to resume normal contract delivery once the outbreak is over. Contracting authorities should inform suppliers who they believe are at risk that they will continue to be paid as normal (even if service delivery is disrupted or temporarily suspended) until at least the end of June. The government will continue to provide schools with their expected funding, including funding to cover free school meals and universal infant free school meals, throughout this period of closure.'

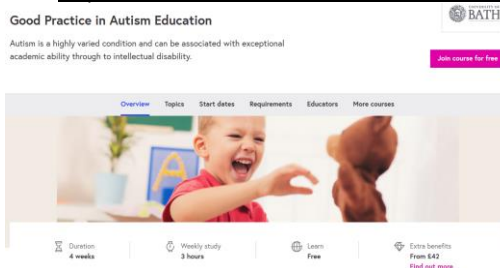


Bath Spa University Free Autism Training

Bath Spa University are offering free online training on, 'Good Practice in Autism Education.' This course is 3 hours a week for 4 weeks. This may be of interest to your SENCO or teaching team for remote learning during school partial closures.

The primary target audience are those who work with autistic children in schools, such as teachers and teaching assistants. However all practitioners can benefit (eg speech and language therapists). The target age range is compulsory education (4-18 years).

To sign up visit: <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/autism-education>



Free access to digital safeguarding recording systems

CPOMS and MyConcern are popular safeguarding digital platforms that many schools are using. With remote working and schools working across different sites during the pandemic, those schools who don't have this facility may struggle to maintain records and share information with DSLs effectively. CPOMS and MyConcern are both offering a free basic package until Sept 2020 to any school who doesn't currently subscribe. CPOMS: <https://www.cpoms.co.uk/cpoms-response/>

MyConcern: <https://www.myconcern.co.uk/national-safeguarding-emergency-response/>

Updating your Safeguarding Policy

Government guidance was published on 27th March regarding safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers. Full details can be found [here](#).

'Schools and colleges will have an effective child protection policy in place reflecting business as usual. It is likely that the policy will not accurately reflect new arrangements in response to COVID-19. It is important schools and colleges (led by a DSL or deputy, wherever possible) review and revise their child protection policy and keep it under review as circumstances continue to evolve. In some cases, a COVID-19 annex/addendum that summaries any key COVID-19 related changes might be more effective than re-writing and re-issuing the whole policy.'

The LA has provided a useful addendum that you can use to ensure your school policies comply with the DfE guidance. This was emailed to schools on 31st March.

Headteacher Well Being Update

Sarah Godsell, on behalf of Education, Learning and Skills, has put together a useful Headteacher Well Being update to ensure school leaders are taking steps to safeguard their mental health and well being during what is a very stressful and challenging time, something that no Headship training would fully prepare you for! Issue one can be found [here](#).

Child Employment

With the safety of the children in employment being paramount, to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and to adhere to the Government social distancing guidance and avoiding all non-essential travel, we are putting a hold on the issuing of child employment permits until further notice. This is in line with guidance from the Department for Education, National Network for Children in Employment and Entertainment and South Gloucestershire Council byelaws.

Any current child employment permits will be suspended until further notice. This means that no child of statutory school will be permitted to undertake employment duties at this time.

This situation will be reviewed regularly in line with government guidance, and we will ensure that updates are communicated to employers. Further information can be found [here](#).

Info for Parents – Learning at home

Education Otherwise is a charitable organisation which has been supporting home educated families for over thirty years. Following significant numbers of requests for advice being received from parents of school children who are currently at home due to the Corona virus, Education Otherwise has produced a guidance document for those families. This addresses the concerns and common questions that parents have expressed to us.

https://educationotherwise.org/images/downloads/Guidance/EO_learning_at_home_guidance_March_2020.pdf

We would be grateful if this could be placed on your web site and circulated amongst schools and families in your area.

Legionella and Site Safety










Integrated Water Services (IWS) have produced some useful guidance for the de-commissioning and re-commissioning of a property during periods of non-occupancy. Some schools are partially open and so consideration of what systems have not been in use, will be important. Full details will be emailed to schools via the Headteacher bulletin. Details can also be found [here](#). Please pass to the person responsible.

Other potential areas that staff will want to consider during a full or partial school closure will be:

- Water leaks
- Infestation
- Malicious damage
- Theft
- Shutting down of ac systems
- Fire safety
- Removal of flammable materials
- Unauthorised occupation
- Moisture/humidity issues

For re-opening, some important aspects to consider will include: cleaning, security checks, flushing systems, boiler checks, heating checks, air con cleaning. Schools will have their own site safety routines and processes for management of these areas (e.g. in summer holiday shut down) so it may be worth planning ahead in these circumstances.

Bristol Diocese Bereavement Resources

 <p>THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND</p>	<p>The Church of England's Going for Growth has a web page filled of resources to support bereavement here. These include links to other sites such as 'the power of language' here and</p>
 <p>Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal</p>	<p>The Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal is a way to fundraise towards their work to support families living with cancer. Click here for ideas on how schools can get involved. Click here for advice, including what to say or do when a child is returning to school after being bereaved.</p>
	<p>A PINTEREST page of bereavement resources here includes useful books and links. Including Rabbityness by Jo Empson; Waterbugs and Dragonflies by Doris Stickney and The Invisible String by Patrice Karst.</p>
 <p>engage worship</p>	<p>Engage Worship has recently released a song written by Sam Hargreaves called "There's a Time For Tears". It draws on Ecclesiastes 3, Jesus at Lazarus' tomb and 2 Corinthians. Click here for resources including words, video and MP3.</p>
 <p>Child Bereavement UK REBUILDING LIVES TOGETHER</p>	<p>Child Bereavement UK supports families and educational professionals both when a baby or child dies or is dying, and when a child is facing bereavement. A short 3.5minute video to help adults know how to talk to a child about someone who has died can be found here. Homepage here. Helpline: 0800 02 888 40</p>
 <p>Childhood Bereavement Network</p>	<p>The Child Bereavement Network has a number of resources to support schools. For example a page on curriculum development here, a resources page here (we recommend the I can, You can cards), some practical tips here and young people's stories here.</p>
 <p>PAPYRUS PREVENTION OF YOUNG SUICIDE</p>	<p>PAPYRUS has developed a guide to suicide prevention, intervention and postvention in schools and colleges. It aims to equip teachers with the skills and knowledge necessary to support schoolchildren who may be having suicidal thoughts with Save The Class resources. It runs HOPELINEUK where advisers can talk with children or young people under 35 or others who are worried about them. The Bedtime Stories resources highlight the impact of online bullying.</p>
 <p>Youthscape</p>	<p>Youthscape signposts to resources that are useful for children/young people's good mental health – mostly aimed at secondary school age pupils.</p>
 <p>BBC</p>	<p>BBC Ideas - A suite of short films focusing on death, bereavement and grief has been made. They may be useful individually to stimulate discussion. For example there is one where Palliative care doctor and author Kathryn Mannix argues that it's time to break the taboo that exists around death – click here. And another, which centres on how for some, their childhood bereavement has been a source of strength as they have grown up. Click here.</p>

This edition focuses on specific resources for pupils with SEND and resources to support mindfulness and mental health.

E-Learning Curriculum SEND and Well Being

Mindfulness and relaxation exercise

Parents can do these with younger children to help manage anxiety.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/CosmicKidsYoga>

<https://www.headspace.com/meditation/kids>

Young Minds

Talking to your child about Coronavirus and 10 tips from their Parents Helpline to support family wellbeing:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/resources/school-resources/tips-leaflet-for-parents-supporting-your-child-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/> Access Art – free resources for creative outlet <https://www.accessart.org.uk/art-resources-for-home/>

Story Massage

Story massage have put together a free resource booklet of 36 stories, email them to be sent a copy: mary@storymassage.co.uk

E-Learning - SEND and well being resources

Social stories about the virus

Carol Gray has produced a [social story about coronavirus](#) and pandemics. The social story uses large print pictures and provides contextual information about pandemics and viruses in general. Autism education also has a social story [here](#).

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

Information for parents of how to support children through COVID19

<https://childmind.org/article/talking-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus/>

<https://www.bps.org.uk/news-and-policy/bps-highlights-importance-talking-children-about-coronavirus>

<http://www.incredibleyears.com/parents-teachers/articles-for-parents/>

Place2Be

Guide to helping parents answer questions from their children and to support family wellbeing: <https://www.place2be.org.uk/coronavirus>

Story Books about the virus

ELSA support have produced an accessible book that can be found [here](#).

Another digital book, in a simple format, can be found [here](#).

COVIbook - in 18 languages

Covibook - Supporting children and families around the world - Available in 18 different languages <https://www.mindheart.co/descargables>