

POLICY BRIEF

Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny

06 January 2021



The information within this Brief is correct at the time of approval for publication and contains relevant announcements made by Government and its departments and regulators since the last ECSC Scrutiny committee on 02 December 2020.

Consultations and Calls for EvidenceHave your say on post-16 level 2 and below study

A call for evidence has been launched seeking views on how to ensure post-16 qualifications at level 2 and below – excluding GCSEs – can support more people to progress into further study or employment. Closing date 31 January 2021.

Keeping children safe in education: proposed revisions 2021

Consultation opened on 10 December 2020 and closed on 04 March 2021. Seeking views on:

- Revisions to 'Keeping children safe in education', the statutory guidance that sets out what schools and colleges should do and the legal duties with which they must comply to keep children safe.
- Revisions to the advice on sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges.

Date of publication	Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Full range of guidance that has recently been updated to reflect latest government changes	<p>All relevant guidance documents relating to schools, early years and childcare providers, further education and colleges and Children's Social Care providers have been updated to reflect the reduction in the self-isolation period from 14 days to 10 days.</p> <p>The following targeted guidance was updated on 14 December 2020 to reflect this reduction;</p> <p><u>Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak</u></p> <p><u>Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak</u></p> <p><u>What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak</u></p> <p><u>Guidance for full opening: special schools and other specialist settings</u></p> <p><u>Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance for children's social care services</u></p> <p><u>Actions for FE colleges and providers during the coronavirus outbreak</u></p>
Published 02 December 2020	<p><u>School governance update</u></p> <p>This correspondence provides important news and communications from the Department for Education (DfE) relating to governance in maintained schools and academy trusts in England.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 'School governance update: December 2020' has been added.

Published 03 December 2020	<p><u>Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak</u></p> <p>What all schools will need to do during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak from the start of the autumn term.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The guidance was updated on 03 December to include updated sections on 'Assessment and accountability', 'Contingency planning for remote education' (with a link to the contingency framework) and 'Self-isolation and shielding'. • It has since been updated in respect of the self isolation information to 10 days from the day after contact with the individual tested positive (from 14 days).
Published 03 December 2020	<p><u>Actions for FE colleges and providers during the coronavirus outbreak</u></p> <p>Sets out what further education (FE) providers need to know for the autumn term so that students of all ages can benefit from their education and training in full.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated guidance on ensuring access to education on-site for students who need it, the expectations for education provided remotely, examinations and assessments, qualification achievement rates and inspections. • It has since been updated in respect of the self isolation information to 10 days from the day after contact with the individual tested positive (from 14 days).
Published 03 December 2020	<p><u>Guidance for schools: coronavirus (COVID-19)</u></p> <p>What school leaders, teachers and school staff need to do during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added 'Guidance to support the summer 2021 exams' to the 'Exams and assessments' section.
Press release 08 December 2020	<p><u>Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children and young people to get extra education support</u></p> <p>Over 100 children and young people will receive extra tutoring, one-to-one support and expert guidance to help them progress in education or find employment.</p>
Press release 08 December 2020	<p><u>Vulnerable families to benefit from additional package of support</u></p> <p>More than £4m to extend Covid response programmes supporting vulnerable families. In a speech today at the Early Intervention Foundation's National Conference, Children's Minister Vicky Ford announced an investment of almost £4.4 million to extend Covid-19 response programmes run by major children's charities, as well as setting out plans to create a National Centre for Family Hubs that will improve families' access to vital services across the country.</p>

Published 08 December 2020	<p><u>Get help with technology during coronavirus (COVID-19)</u></p> <p>Guidance for local authorities, academy trusts and schools on devices and support available to provide remote education and access to children's social care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated information on how to get a grant and support to use a digital education platform.
Published 09 December 2020	<p><u>Joint working improving children's access to mental health services</u></p> <p>A new joint report shows that more children with mental health needs are getting the right support at the right time.</p> <p>The joint report from Ofsted, Care Quality Commission (CQC), HMI Constabulary, Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and HMI Probation looks at how partners in six local authority areas are working together to help children with mental ill health. The report is based on inspections carried out between September 2019 and February 2020 – before the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>
Published 10 December 2020	<p><u>Guidance for full opening: special schools and other specialist settings</u></p> <p>What all special schools and other specialist settings will need to do during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak from the start of the autumn term to support the return of children and young people with special education needs and disability (SEND).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated sections on assessment and accountability, and contingency planning for remote education. • It has since been updated in respect of the self isolation information to 10 days from the day after contact with the individual tested positive (from 14 days).
Published 14 December 2020	<p><u>Review on barriers to online and on-screen assessment published</u></p> <p>An Ofqual review has found IT provision, security and staffing issues are some of the barriers to the adoption of online and on-screen assessments in high stakes qualifications such as GCSEs and A Levels.</p>
Published 14 December 2020	<p><u>Coronavirus (COVID-19) test kits for children's homes</u></p> <p>New guidance on when and how to test children and staff, including how to order more test.</p> <p>Read this guidance alongside:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>guidance for children's social care services</u> • <u>safe working in education, childcare and children's social care settings, including the use of personal protective equipment (PPE)</u>
Published 15 December 2020	<p><u>Secondary schools and colleges to get weekly coronavirus testing</u></p>

	<p>Lateral flow tests to be deployed to all secondary schools and colleges to help detect asymptomatic cases and break chains of transmission from January.</p> <p>Guidance can be found here: Coronavirus (COVID-19) asymptomatic testing in schools and colleges</p>
Published 17 December 2020	<p>Dame Rachel de Souza confirmed as new Children's Commissioner</p> <p>Education Secretary Gavin Williamson announces Dame Rachel de Souza as the next Children's Commissioner for England.</p>
Ofsted Announcements	
Published 01 December 2020	<p>The Annual Report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills 2019/20</p> <p>Ofsted has published its Annual Report to Parliament, as required by the Education and Inspections Act 2006. This report addresses the full range of our inspection and regulation both in education and care.</p> <p>It is underpinned by evidence from inspections of, and visits to, schools, colleges and providers of social care, early years and further education and skills. The main content sections can be found here;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early years and childcare providers • Schools • Further education and skills • Social care
Published 04 December 2020	<p>Ofsted to carry out thematic survey on T levels</p> <p>The Department for Education has commissioned Ofsted to carry out a thematic survey on the implementation of T levels and the T-level transition programme. The survey will take place over their first 2 years of operation, 2020/21 and 2021/22. T levels are challenging new technical qualifications at level 3. They are equivalent to 3 A levels and include a substantial industry placement. They are intended to deliver high-standard technical education to prepare young people to work in a number of important occupations that meet the needs of industry.</p>
Published 07 December 2020	<p>Ofsted's plans: 2021</p> <p>Guidance and details of plans from January 2021 as part of a phased return to full inspection. Ofsted's return to inspection in 2021 will happen in phases, with no graded inspections for education or social care providers planned before the summer term – guidance for providers has been updated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 2021: registered early years providers • January 2021: maintained schools and academies • January 2021: further education and skills providers