



**Dear Colleagues,**

To keep you all up-to-date with the latest information on Coronavirus (COVID-19), and help protect yourself and others, we will be issuing regular updates.

We have also created a landing page on the Portal where all communications and updates from the Local Authority and central government relating to COVID-19 will be organised, and all schools are access this area - the link is:

<http://www.hes.org.uk/Page/16925>.

### **Early Years and Childcare Provider Business Support**

Yesterday, the Government published [guidance](#) for the early years sector, clarifying their role in battling the Coronavirus virus, as well as announcing a range of financial support for workers and businesses in the sector, including;

- Continued funding from the Local Authority for funded places
- Business rate holiday for one year
- Small business grant funding
- Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme
- Business Interruption Loan Scheme

It is hoped that this financial support will mean that as many providers as possible will be able to stay open for eligible children.

### **Educational Based Provision**

As expected, the numbers attending schools and early years providers decreased yesterday, so the message to keep children at home wherever possible is obviously getting through.

We have a few schools that are having to temporarily close, either because of issues with staffing/SLT numbers, or lack of take-up from families – and we are very grateful to those schools that are offering places to those displaced families.

Your Local Authority contact will be discussing any sustainability issues with you as part of today's call, and in particular whether schools have any thoughts about developing local Hubs to support their local communities. Whilst the Local Authority isn't looking to impose a blanket Hub model across the borough, we are keen to support any local proposals where it makes sense to do so, or where we are having to respond to a temporary school closure.



## Attendance Recording (Schools, APs)

Further to yesterday's update, the MET Police have confirmed that they no longer require the DfE summary attendance information, as they consider that they have good channels of communication, and their Safer Schools Officers are feeding back from what they see and hear from being at their schools – apologies for any confusion.

Thank you for continuing to send your key issues/questions to your Local Authority contact, as this is helping us tailor the content of these regular updates, as well as ensuring that we can provide targeted support.

**Can you please continue to send the DfE attendance summary (as per the table below) to [Paul Fitzgerald paul.fitzgerald@havering.gov.uk](mailto:paul.fitzgerald@havering.gov.uk) each day.**

Department for Education							
Record of Children in Attendance		<b>Attendance Totals (these populate automatically)</b>					
		1) Total number of students or pupils who are attending your educational setting today					0
<b>School name:</b>		2) Number of children of critical workers.					0
<b>Date:</b>		3) Number of children of critical workers on an EHCP.					0
<b>URN:</b>		4) Number of children of critical workers with a social worker.					0
<b>Local authority:</b>		5) Number of vulnerable children.					0
		6) Number of vulnerable children on an EHCP.					0
		7) Number of vulnerable children with a social worker.					0

## Implementing Social Distancing in Education and Childcare Settings

The Government has published [guidance](#) to support staff working in schools, other education and childcare settings to deliver this new Educational Based Provision in the safest way possible, focusing on measures you can put in place to help limit risk of the virus spreading within education and childcare settings. It should be read in conjunction with the [advice](#) on [school closures](#), [vulnerable children](#) and [childcare](#). This advice will be updated as the situation evolves, while further guidance relating to Special schools will be published as soon as possible.

## Safeguarding

Now that all schools have closed, except for vulnerable children and children of key workers, schools and early years providers should also consider the impact on current child protection plans, and other vulnerable families. To support this, HSIS have developed the attached updated guidance.



## Home Learning

In a previous update, we shared the HSIS guide for home learning, which included links to a range of resources and materials.

The Havering Virtual School have compiled the attached list of the best websites that offer FREE learning resources, ideas, activities, lessons and more, for parents/carers to use at home. Feel free to share these with your school community.

## Further Guidance

Please ensure that you are regularly checking the national guidance.

Guidance on 'Self-Isolation' for people with confirmed or possible coronavirus (COVID-19) infection - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>.

Please go to [NHS.UK/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) for information about the virus and how to protect yourself, and the latest information and advice about COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is also available on the [government website](https://www.gov.uk/government).

Information for educational settings is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>. However, we expect this advice to change in the coming days due to the change to the Delay phase of the response in the UK. Should new information for schools be published, this will be cascaded to all establishments.

The Department for Education has a helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)