

Chair and Vice Chair Briefing Summer Term 2021

Additional Information

For use with the suggested School Governing Board Agenda

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1. **Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance pages for schools and colleges**

These are links to the main guidance pages that cover a range of topic around pupils returning to schools and colleges. While these may cover operational running of schools and academies, it is important for those on governing and trust boards to be aware of in their role of supporting and challenging school leaders on their duties.

- [Guidance for schools: coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) - Our guidance about governors or trustees going into schools has not changed. This can still happen, if considered essential. This guidance covers how schools should consider managing visitors on the site.
- [Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak](#)
- [Early years and childcare providers](#)
- [Special schools, special post-16 providers and alternative provision](#)
- [Teacher assessed grades for students](#) - press release
- [New education recovery package for children and young people](#) - press release
- [Evidence summary](#) – sets out the evidence relevant to, and in support of, the government's decision to lift restrictions on education.
- Educational visits can resume no earlier than 12th April, provided that step 2 of the road map is successfully met. There should be no residential educational visits until step 3 (17th May)
- From 29th March, **outdoor activities** can happen in groups of any number. From the same date outdoor competition between different schools can take place but indoor competition should not happen before 12th April.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-governance-update/school-governance-update-march-2021?fbclid=IwAR3_iXWtgsZyezoN-Vy3bZHj0FME09njdn5T-U-tiK3r4UHbyL5kbxLObg

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/schools-coronavirus-covid-19-operational-guidance>

Shielding guidance

Shielding guidance is being paused for clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) people from 1 April. This means that all CEV pupils should attend on-site provision from 1 April onwards, unless they are advised otherwise by their GP or clinician.

CEV staff, however, should continue to work from home if possible, but if they cannot, then they should attend on-site.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

2. **National Tutoring Programme – access to discounted 1:1 Tuition with qualified teachers for learners with SEND/SEMH needs**

Targeted Provision offer a holistic education service, providing each pupil with tuition by qualified teachers and the support of a Welfare Team (SENDCo, EWOs, Designated Mental Health Lead, Safeguarding Leads, an in-house Educational Psychologist).

They manage each pupil referral on an individual basis, ensuring that a tutor is provided whose academic and pastoral experience matches the needs of the pupil.

Through the National Tutoring Programme, schools can access this support for their pupils for £12.50 an hour (a 75% reduction).

The National Tutoring Programme enables Targeted Provision to offer support pupils from KS1 through to Year 11:

15 hours of tuition per pupil, delivered as either 1 hour per week for 15 weeks, or 2 hours per week for 7.5 weeks.

the same level of welfare support that we provide for all our standard referrals

It does, however, have limitations that are worth highlighting:

Pupils can receive no more than 15 hours in total and cannot receive more than 2 hours a week.

Tuition can be delivered either face to face or online in school, but only online in homes and residential settings (because of NTP's safeguarding regulations).

Schools are required to make the referrals themselves and will need to sign the National Tutoring Programme's Memorandum of Understanding before they can accept pupils.

Action: If you would like to discuss the offer with Targeted Provision, they can be contacted at ntp@targetedprovision.com or on 0121 295 8875.

Academic mentors programme conditions of grant - 31 March 2021

The academic mentors programme is an element of the National Tutoring Programme. Conditions of grant have been published, specifying mentor salaries and the timing of grant payments. Unspent funding has to be returned to the DfE.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/academic-mentors-programme-grant-conditions-of-funding>

3. Ofsted research and report into remote education and SEND

A video with Ofsted's research findings on remote learning and what has worked well for some children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/remote-education-and-send?fbclid=IwAR1EiOaW2i7W23u2QnLAqHjNcUWqf03KjfrE2o1L_8QhcVrnXMJS6JbfWY

4. Schools Financial Benchmarking service

The spring term 2021 saw the release of the Schools Financial Benchmarking service which included:

Maintained 19/20yr financial data.

There are also two functionality improvements which are now available:

- SEN characteristics are now on the benchmark page for special schools
- A default school/MAT is now saved in the benchmark set

Further improvements will be added in future releases. You can comment on any changes in your experience by emailing school.resource.management@education.gov.uk. You can also use this email address to join our group of user experience testers and help us shape new features and the development of the service. Further information can be found by following this link.

<https://schools-financial-benchmarking.service.gov.uk/>

5. Statutory guidance/Compliance

School suspensions and expulsions

Guidance on the suspension and expulsion of pupils from local-authority-maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-exclusion?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=0ccbf7ed-96a2-4d27-a2fa-9292ab396110&utm_content=immediately&fbclid=IwAR2rcRnmSle-okQUtdF-o3LCiaF7TwqicQr-d3R9dgzk-qU-BwN-IWWsnjA

6. NQTs. Early Career Framework Updated March 2021

This updated document explains how the government is delivering support to early career teachers, what the offer is and how it's related to the early career framework. There is information on funding for all schools offering statutory induction to help them deliver the ECF reforms, to cover 5% off timetables and 20 hours of mentoring, both in year

2. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-career-framework-reforms-overview?fbclid=IwAR3QE6t6EEWGQVai2mkpF7jeP4FNc6hvgTbn1PcxWXvuZ1cFYXuGfLP2kQc8>

7. What major multi-academy trusts have paid senior leaders in 2019-20

Academy trust	Chief executive	Highest earner 2019-20	Highest earner 2018-19	Number of schools
Harris Federation	Sir Dan Moynihan	£455,000 - 460,000	£450,000 - 455,000	50
AET	Julian Drinkall	£285,000 - 290,000	£295,000 - 300,000	58
United Learning	Sir Jon Coles **	£252,000	£240,000	90
Star Academies	Hamid Patel *	£250,000 - 260,000	£230,000 - 240,000	34
Oasis Community Learning	John Murphy *	£230,000 - 240,000	£220,000 -230,000	52
Leigh Academies	Simon Beamish *	£230,000 - 240,000	£220,000 -230,000	28
Reach2	Sir Steve Lancashire	£220,000 - 230,000	£220,000-230,000	60
Kemnal	Dr Karen Roberts **	£215,000 - 220,000	£205,000 - 210,000	45
Ormiston	Nick Hudson	£206,341	£197,675	40
Delta	Paul Tarn	£205,000 - 210,000	£200,000 - 205,000	55
Ark	Lucy Heller **	£198,961	£210,119	38
Northern Education	Rob Tarn	£197,111	£187,775	21
Greenwood Academies	Wayne Norrie	£185,000 - 190,000	£170,000 - 175,000	36
Academy Transformation	Debbie Clinton *	£180,000 - 190,000	£170,000 - 180,000	21
Outwood Grange	Martyn Oliver	170,000 - 175,000	£165,000 - 170,000	43
Astrea	Rowena Hackwood *	£140,000 - 150,000	£140,000 - 150,000	29
Plymouth Cast	Zoe Batten *	£120,000 - 130,000	£120,000 - 130,000	35

A breakdown of the top earners at some of the country's largest trusts is shown in the table. Please note the named people are not always those earning these amounts.

8. Report Abuse in Education Helpline

The NSPCC have been commissioned by the DfE to launch a free and anonymous helpline for children and young people who have experienced abuse at school or for adults, professionals who need support and guidance to respond to the above helpline.

0800 136 663 or **help@nspcc.org.uk** (Monday – Fri 8am-10pm) and Weekend (9am-6pm)

Everyone's Invited Website <https://www.everyonesinvited.uk/>

A focus on the Facts:

- There are now over 12,000 testimonies available on the Everyone's Invited website. It is anticipated that this number will grow given the scale of the problem and the platform's media attention.
- Not all testimonials on the platform are about schools. That said, over 100 schools have been named, some multiple times.
- There are a significant number of testimonials relating to universities, the night-time economy and public harassment.
- Where testimonials do mention schools, the allegations range from misogynistic behaviour /culture to verbal harassment, sexual assault, exploitation and rape.
- In some cases, adults in a position of trust have been mentioned as alleged perpetrators of sexual abuse and harassment.
- There are multiple instances where reports made to individuals in positions of trust by pupils have allegedly been suppressed, dismissed, or ignored.
- Police have encouraged victims and survivors to come forward and a helpline will be established to process further reports.

Quick checklist to review your safeguarding practice, culture and procedures

- Are staff and volunteers aware of their responsibilities if they are concerned about a child or young person and are they aware of the procedures to follow?
- Do staff and volunteers understand their responsibility to share information relevant to safeguarding children?
- There is a code of Ethics / Behaviour either separate or integrated into your Code of Conduct?
- Does your school / college promote a culture that ensures children are listened to and respected?
- Are children and young people made aware of how to report any safeguarding concerns and the actions taken in response?
- Do you publicly display safeguarding information, including contact details for Children's Services, the police and emergency medical help?
- Are the details of your DSL / Deputy DSL known throughout your school/college, AND are their details widely publicised?

- Are your policies and procedures regarding harmful sexual behaviour and abuse easy to access, publicised, and actively promoted to ALL key stakeholders, including staff, volunteers, children, and parents/carers?
- Does your school or college accommodate an open forum for students to discuss issues of concern including sexual violence or harassment?
- Does your school have a safer recruitment policy, and are the arrangements sufficiently robust?

9 a) Updated guidance on Free School Meals related to Covid-19 - 10 March 2021 and Pupil Premium conditions of grant 2021/22 - 30 March 2021

This link here confirms payment processes for the January to March lockdown period and says that the claims window will open in April and further details will be confirmed separately.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools#claiming-additional-costs>

These allocations are based on the October census data not January 2021 data. This has caused some debate.

A new condition has been introduced for Pupil Premium – see link to section 7 of the guidance. Schools must demonstrate how their spending decisions are informed by research evidence, making reference to a range of sources including the Education Endowment Foundation's toolkit.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium-allocations-and-conditions-of-grant-2021-to-2022/pupil-premium-conditions-of-grant-2021-to-2022-for-local-authorities>

As part of the [pupil premium allocations and conditions of grant for 2021 to 2022](#), schools are now required to:

- demonstrate, from the next academic year, how their spending decisions are informed by research evidence (condition 7)
- use the [strategy statement templates](#) to publish their pupil premium strategy (condition 8)

Schools receive pupil premium funding based on the number of pupils they have from the following groups.

Free school meals allocations

- Schools receive £1,345 for every primary age pupil, or £955 for every secondary age pupil, who claims free school meals, or who has claimed free school meals in the last 6 years. (Ever 6)

Looked-after and previously looked-after children

- Schools receive £2,345 for every pupil who has left local authority care through adoption, a special guardianship order or child arrangements order.

Local authorities receive the same amount for each child they are looking after; they must work with the school to decide how the money is used to support the child's personal education plan.

Unusually, the autumn census data for FSM has been published. The DfE explains it in this way: 'As the most recent official statistics correspond to January 2020 and are prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are publishing this data to present a more timely view of free school meals in schools in England.'

This could be an attempt to deflect criticism about the Pupil Premium date change, by drawing attention to the increase between January and October 2020.

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/free-school-meals-autumn-term/2020-21-autumn-term>

b) PE & Sport Grant balances carried forward - 16 March 2021

The terms of allocation have been amended to extend the deadline for spending any carry over funding for 2019/2020 to the end of the academic year 2020/2021. This relates to the added flexibility to carry forward 2019/20 underspends due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pe-and-sport-premium-conditions-of-grant-2020-to-2021>

10. Cadet programme - 2 April 2021

The government has announced a new £1.1 million investment to expand cadet units in schools. Primarily for high schools

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/thousands-more-pupils-to-benefit-from-cadet-programme>

11. Academies revenue funding allocations - 1 April 2021

The DfE has updated this page to provide information on academy funding allocation statements for 2021 to 2022.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/academies-funding-allocations>

12. Summer school guidance - 30 March 2021

Details have been published of the summer schools programme for secondary schools including funding, requirements for running a summer school and best practice evidence.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summer-schools-programme>

Holiday activities and food programme - 17 March 2021

Information for local authorities who will receive funding to support disadvantaged children during the 2021 Easter, summer and Christmas holidays.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/holiday-activities-and-food-programme>

13. Digital education platforms support - 30 March

The 'Get Help With Tech' programme has been extended for a further 12 months, enabling schools to make claims up to March 2022 for G Suite or Office 365 platforms. The amounts aren't particularly large, but every little helps, as they say!

<https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/digital-platforms>

14. DBS Barred List Checks - Important Changes from 1st April 2021

From the 1st April 2021, standalone checks of the children's barred list will be administered by the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) on behalf of the DfE. This means that standalone barred list checks can no longer be obtained from TP Online or from the various umbrella bodies and supply agencies who currently sell these checks.

Schools need to ensure that they see the original (paper) DBS certificate for all new appointments in regulated activity with children. A digital certificate or letter of clearance is not acceptable.

If the appointee is transferring directly from another school in England without a break in service of 3 months or more, the appointing school can undertake a stand-alone barred list check using the TRA website.

The Teaching Regulation Agency website is here: <https://teacherservices.education.gov.uk/>

For further information, see: <https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/employers/tp-online-page.aspx>

If you have any questions about these changes, you can contact the DfE at tponline.replacement@education.gov.uk; or if you have any questions about access to the replacement service contact: Employer.Access@education.gov.uk

15.. Everyone's Invited: possible response for Primary Schools

Whilst this issue is probably more prevalent in secondary schools, there are occasions where sexual abuse by children has happened within primary schools. This is an important issue, not least because the Internet Watch Foundation has found an increase in children abused online are being encouraged to abuse their siblings and friends. (see link)

<https://www.iwf.org.uk/news/%E2%80%98beyond-heart-breaking%E2%80%99-abuse-predators-groom-children-film-siblings-and-friends>

This will be a very difficult topic for parents and schools need to tread a very fine line. It is probably more useful for primary schools to talk about relationships, how boys and girls are taught to be respectful to each other and how any bullying is tackled (including any online).

Letters to parents should have four aims (maybe a paragraph each):

Acknowledge the concerns

Talk about what you are doing about the issue

Offer reassurance that this issue is being taken seriously

Give a positive example of what you have done in the past where issues have arisen (to show confidence that you 'know what you are doing')

Everyone's Invited - Browne Jacobson (Dai Durbridge)

Dai Durbridge, head of the education safeguarding team at lawyers, Browne Jacobson, has written two really helpful blog posts covering:

- Managing reports relating to current students
- Managing reports where the alleged perpetrator has left your setting
- Previously investigated reports
- Statement for press, parents, stakeholders and the wider community
- Insurance considerations
- Data protection issues – sharing and retaining evidence
- Policy, procedure and staff training
- Further help and support

Update 1: <https://www.brownejacobson.com/education/training-and-resources/legal-updates/2021/03/everyones-invited-managing-reports-of-child-on-child-assault-and-harassment>

Update 2: <https://www.brownejacobson.com/education/training-and-resources/legal-updates/2021/04/everyones-invited-ofsted-to-review-safeguarding-policies>

Resulting Ofsted review

The Ofsted review into sexual abuse in schools has published its [terms of reference](#). It's important to familiarise yourself with this document in preparation for the immediate review.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-review-of-sexual-abuse/ofsted-review-into-sexual-abuse-in-schools-terms-of-reference>