TAMESIDE SCHOOL

Back to School Toolkit

Tameside Education Welfare Service

Tameside Metropolitan Borough

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE × AUDENSHAW × DENTON × DROYLSDEN × DUKINFIELD × HYDE × LONGDENDALE × MOSSLEY × STALYBRIDGE

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Advice Note 1: Register Codes

The Department for Education issued revised attendance guidance in August 2020 with an addendum relating to recording attendance in relation to coronavirus (Covid-19) during the 2020-2021 academic year: The guidance replaces temporary guidance on recording attendance during the outbreak. Both the guidance and addendum can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-attendance

In essence, the codes in place prior to the outbreak should be used but it is recognised that there are some circumstances where pupils cannot attend school due to the virus and therefore a new category has been added for not attending in circumstances relating to coronavirus. This category must only be used to record sessions that take place in 2020/21 academic year where a pupil does not attend because their travel to, or attendance at, school would be:

- contrary to guidance issued by Public Health England
- prohibited by any legislation

This new category of non-attendance will not count as an absence for statistical purposes.

The code for non attendance in circumstances related to coronavirus is the X code.

Please note that the X code should continue to be used for non-compulsory school aged pupils who are not expected to attend.

A summary of examples given in the addendum for circumstances related to coronavirus are as follows:

Circumstance	Advice	Register Code
Pupils who are required to self isolate as they, or a member of their household, has symptoms or has tested positive for coronavirus.	Pupils who have symptoms should self isolate and get a test: **Negative result:** If they feel well and no longer have symptoms they can return to school. **Positive result:** Continue to self isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms. Only return to school if they no longer have symptoms (other than a cough or loss of smell / taste)	Code X until the time of the negative test. Schools should NOT retrospectively change the register due to a negative result. Code X should be used for the period of self isolation until the positive test afterwhich the absence should be recorded as code I (Illness)
If someone in the pupil's household has symptoms, the household should self-isolate and the member of their household should get a test	**Negative result:** Pupil can stop self isolating and return to school. **Positive result:** Pupil to continue to self isolate for 14 days from when the household member first had symptoms.	Code X until the time of the negative test. Code X until pupil is able to return to school
NB: In all cases of self isolation, schools should ask parents to inform them immediately about the outcome of a test. Schools should not require evidence of negative test results before pupils return to school.		

Pupils who are required to self isolate because they are a close contact of someone who has symptoms or has tested positive for coronavirus	Self isolate for 14 days	Code X until the pupil is able to return to school.
Pupils who are required by legislation to self isolate as part of a period of quarantine	On returning to the UK where quarantine is required.	Code X for the period of quarantine
Pupils who are clinically extremely vulnerable	Shielding advice paused on 01/08/2020 so all pupils on the patient shielding list or those who have family members on the shielding patient list can return to school. In the event that infection rates rise, clinically vulnerable pupils (or those with family members who are clinically vulnerable) may receive a letter from Government to shield.	Code X for the period of shielding only.
Schools should contact parents of pupils who are shielding when measures are lifted and shielding is paused again to set out the expectation that pupils can return to school. Code X should not be used for sessions after the pupil has been advised to return to school.		
Local lockdown	In the event that infection rates rise and a local lockdown is implemented, school should follow Government guidance.	Code X for any pupils asked not to attend

Remote Education
Schools are expected to immediately offer access to remote education to any pupil who is not attending school due to circumstances related to coronavirus (ie where the X code is used).

Data Collection
Collection of school data for census will resume in January 2021 relating to Autumn 2020 term.

For further information on register codes please contact the Education Welfare Service on:
education.welfare@tameside.gov.uk or 0161 342 2112

Advice Note 3: Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions - Post Covid-19

The last few months have been a challenging time for some of our families and possibly even more so if their children have a medical condition. The announcement that pupil attendance will be mandatory from the Autumn 2020 term may have been welcomed by most parents and pupils but it may also have unsettled some of our pupils and families.

Shielding advice for all adults and children paused on 1 August 2020. This means that even the small number of pupils who remain on the shielding patient list can return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding.

In the event of infection rates rising in the future, pupils on the shielding patient list (or those with family members on the shielding patient list) may receive a letter from the Government with advice to shield, in which case schools are expected to be able to immediately offer those pupils access to remote education. Code X should be used when marking registers in this circumstance.

If you are approached by a parent who feels that their child cannot return to school due to fears that coronavirus may affect a medical condition, it is important that the parent feels listened to and that their worries and anxieties are fully explored. There will be a range of support available for families who have anxieties around the return to school both from The Education Welfare Service and also via the Early Help offer.

Where pupils are not able to attend school as a result of an existing medical condition, schools are asked to notify The Education Welfare Service – see **www.tameside.gov.uk/childrenwithmedicalneeds**. The following information must be provided:

- Recent medical evidence confirming that the pupil is unable to attend school.
- Information from parents detailing the specific reason the child is not able to attend school.
- Evidence that schools have attempted to make reasonable adjustments to allow the pupil to attend school.
- A copy of the Individual Health Care Plan which has been written in partnership with school, parents and health care professionals.

Where appropriate, a case management panel will assess the needs of the pupil and may provide an alternative provision on an individual needs basis.

All absences that are not supported by medical evidence should not be authorised and school attendance procedures should be followed.

Schools are advised to review their medical policy to reflect Government advice on coronavirus.

Statutory Guidance: **Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school**
Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school

For further information on supporting pupils with medical conditions please contact the Education Welfare Service on: **medicalenquiries@tameside.gov.uk** or 0161 342 2112

Advice Note 2: Legal Action for Poor Attendance

In March 2020, at the beginning of the Covd-19 outbreak, the Government issued guidance making it clear that no parent would be penalised or sanctioned for their child's non-attendance at school and the issuing of fixed penalty notices was suspended. However, further guidance was issued in July 2020 stating that school attendance will be mandatory again from the beginning of the 2020/21 Autumn term. To support mandatory attendance, the guidance revoked the suspension of issuing fixed penalty notices in line with the local authority code of conduct.

It is recognised that, following the school closure, some parents and pupils may be reluctant and/or experience a degree of anxiety when returning to school and Tameside Education Services have produced a number of resources to support school staff to work with pupils and families in order to offer reassurances. Education Welfare Staff are available to work with schools by contacting the number below.

Whilst the enforcement of mandatory schooling comes into effect from September 2020, The Education Welfare Service (EWS) encourage schools to take a non punitive approach in the first instance during the first half term and work closely with families; offering reassurances of the measures in place to reduce risk, offer personalised re-engagement plans to identified pupils and signpost to support services where necessary.

Penalty Notice Warnings

EWS anticipate that the use of penalty notice warnings would commence no sooner than the second half term in the event that pupils' unauthorised absence continues. Penalty notice warnings (PNW) can be submitted once a pupil has had 10 sessions of unauthorised absence. Once issued, the pupil's attendance will be monitored for a period of not less than 15 school days and any further unauthorised absences may result in a fixed penalty notice being issued.

Holidays in Term Time

The Department for Education has been clear that holidays in term time should not be authorised unless in exceptional circumstances and this remains the case from September 2020. Head Teachers are asked to be particularly mindful of the impact the pandemic has had on children's education and how vital it is that all children return to school when making their decision if family circumstances meet the exceptional circumstances criteria.

Penalty notice requests for holidays in term time will be accepted by EWS from the beginning of the 2020 Autumn term.

Statutory guidance: **School behaviour and attendance: parental responsibility measures**

For further information on legal action please contact the Education Welfare Service on:
education.welfare@tameside.gov.uk or 0161 342 2112

Advice Note 4: Elective Home Education – Post Covid

The last few months have been a challenging and unsettling time for some of our children and families in Tameside, changes to their routine and a long period of time away from school. Schools and parents have adopted innovative and interesting new ways of learning. The announcement that all children are to return in September may have been welcomed by both parents and pupils alike; it may also have unsettled some of our pupils and families.

With this in mind, some parents may now choose to remove their child from the education system and EHE (Electively Home Educate). In our experience a small number of EHE families do an amazing job of home educating their children, sadly many do not, we have seen many pupils not being provided with a sufficient form of education, which impacts on their education when they return to school.

If you are approached by a parent who is considering EHE, the process will be as it was pre-Covid.

The family and pupil will be invited to an EHE intervention meeting in school to discuss whether EHE is an appropriate choice and whether the pupils' needs would be best met in school with some possible additional support. An Education Welfare Officer will attend the meeting to ensure that all parties are in receipt of the correct information and have made an informed choice.

Following the meeting, the family may still decide to EHE, if this is the case the necessary forms will be completed and parents/carers will be made aware of the following:

- Officers will make statutory visits twice a year (one from Education Welfare and one from the Pupil Support Team – possibly more where there are concerns).
- Parents take full responsibly for the child's education, including ongoing costs, resources, exam costs, employing tutors and ensuring they have a suitable DBS.
- Families are not given any type of work packs or financial support from EWS.
- Families who cannot evidence a suitable education will be given an additional 14 days to provide further evidence. If this is not provided, further action must then be taken, see below.
- Families, who refuse to accept visits, will not work with EWS, or provide evidence of a suitable education will be issued with a School Attendance Order. This will be heard through the Fair Access panel and in the first instance the pupil will be returned to the school they left.
- Some schools may decide to arrange a managed move if all parties feel that this would be more beneficial for the pupil.
- Parents of Year 11 pupils must source their own exam centres and all associated costs.

For further information on home education please contact the Education Welfare Service on: ehe@tameside.gov.uk or 0161 342 2112

Advice Note 5: Flexi-Schooling Fact Sheet

PARENTS:

Flexi-schooling is legal in the UK but it isn't an automatic right, unlike full-time home education (EHE). It is entirely at the discretion of your school's head teacher and you'll need their permission before you can go ahead. You'll need to prove to the head teacher that flexi-schooling is in the best interests of your child, for example by writing a proposal explaining the benefits for your child and practical examples of how the arrangement will work between the school and you.

The responsibility to ensure that a child receives full-time education while he or she is of statutory school age lies with the parent/carer with parental responsibility. The 1996 Education Act states that the parent/carer of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him or her to receive efficient fulltime education suitable to his or her age, ability and aptitude, and to any special educational needs he or she may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.

Even though you'll have an official flexi-schooling arrangement with the school (including which days they will attend), your child will be marked absent on the register for the days they don't attend. Your child will be required to follow the national curriculum whilst at school, but you don't have to follow it at home. However, you'll need to arrange the practicalities of the arrangement with the school – how will you ensure you aren't doubling up on some work or missing out on other topics? Who will set and mark your child's work?

SCHOOLS:

Parents can request flexi schooling, Head teachers do not have to agree with the request and there are no grounds of appeal, school should consider whether it is the best interests of the pupils' wellbeing, relationships with peers and ensuring the curriculum is covered at home and in school.

Where flexi-schooling is agreed, it is recommended that the school has a written agreement with the parents/carers so that expectations and arrangements are clear for both parties. Such an agreement is likely to include: the normal expected pattern of attendance at school, procedures for flexibility around special events which fall outside the normal arrangement and that the school will follow up any unexpected or unexplained absence in the same way as it does for other children. Safeguarding the child is of paramount importance.

There is no opt-out for schools with regards to the National (Academy) Curriculum based on a flexi-schooling proposal. Although the child is not attending all school sessions, the school will still need to ensure that the child has appropriate access to the National (Academy) Curriculum. The child cannot be dis-applied from statutory curriculum or assessment arrangements simply because flexible attendance has been agreed

Pupils with a flexi schooling agreement should be marked with the C code. Code C is an absence code, which will affect the school's overall absence and attendance figures. "Pupils who are being flexi-schooled should be marked as absent from school during the periods when they are receiving home education" (not be confused with EHE – Elective Home Education).

If the school is concerned about the provision of education at home, the school can withdraw its agreement to the flexi-schooling arrangement and the child would then be required to attend school on a full-time basis.

The Education Welfare Team does not have any involvement with the pupil, family or ensuring the agreement is adhered to, to clarify the pupil is not registered as EHE, the pupil remains on school roll.

Advice Note 6: Children Missing Education – Post Covid

The last few months have been a challenging and unsettling time for some of our children and families in Tameside, changes to their routine and a long period of time away from school. During the period of lockdown some families may have moved home, families separated and possibly moved away from the Tameside area, in some cases parents may not have informed schools about their change in circumstances.

With this in mind, some pupils may not arrive in school in September.

In the case of families informing school they are relocating to another country or another part of the UK, where possible, school should hold a meeting with parents and request the following information:

- Forwarding address,
- Copy of flight tickets (in the case of families moving abroad),
- Details of any potential new school.
- Where the family are moving within the UK they should complete a school transfer form

Where parents are refusing to send the child in to school for a personal reason (including reasons related to Covid-19), the child is refusing to attend school or the family have moved to another address within Tameside, a CME referral is NOT required. These circumstances are attendance matters and school should follow their attendance procedures – see advice note 1 & 2.

Where a child fails to return in September, their whereabouts are not known to school and you have been unable to make contact with parents, the referral process and criteria for Children Missing Education (CME) will be as it was pre-Covid-19: **www.tameside.gov.uk/ChildrenMissingEducation**

Prior to any Referral:

Schools MUST make reasonable enquiries to locate the child, these include:

- Attempt to make contact with Parents / Carers via the emergency contact details stored at school.
- Check with peers and other staff members (class teacher / learning mentor) in case they are aware of the child mentioning any plans to move home
- A home visit to the last known address should be undertaken to ascertain whether the child is still at the address school hold on record (this is particularly important in the case of separated families as one parent may still be at the address)

If these steps are unsuccessful and the whereabouts of the pupil remain unknown, then a referral to CME can be submitted to the Education Welfare Service.

Once your referral is received and acknowledged the CME Officers will take steps to locate the child and school will be kept informed of the process. After a period of not less than 20 school days, if the child has not been traced, school are then able to remove the child from their roll.
This should only be done in consultation with the CME Officer.

The only exception to this is when children have an EHCP as these children must be kept on roll until a new school is named and this should be in consultation with the SEN caseworker.

Please note that should you be successful in locating the whereabouts of the child, or obtain any new information either prior to or after a referral, the CME Tracking Officer must be informed.

Statutory Guidance: **Children missing education**

For further information on register codes please contact the Education Welfare Service on: **cme@tameside.gov.uk** or 0161 342 2112.

Advice Note 7: Children Not Returning to School following Covid

Whilst school attendance became mandatory from the beginning of the 2020/21 academic year following the temporary suspension of legal enforcement, it is recognised that some parents may be reluctant and / or feel a degree of anxiety about their child returning to school after the enforced closure.

The Education Welfare Service are encouraging schools to take a non punitive approach in the first instance during the first half term and work closely with families, offering reassurances of the measures in place to reduce risk, offer personalised re-engagement plans to identified pupils and signpost to support services where necessary. Below is a list of considerations and suggested actions to support school staff in this endeavour:

- Early identification of any pupil who does not return to school as expected is vital to ensure that intervention can begin at the earliest opportunity.
- Provide reassurance that the Government / DfE have stated (almost) all children should be back at school having balanced the risk of Covid against the importance of education and the well being of pupils.
- The DfE state that very few children will need to shield. If parents are worried about their child's medical condition they should seek advice from their lead medical practitioner. Evidence will be required to support any pupil remaining absent.
- Shielding arrangements ended on 1st August 2020, if parents are worried about adult vulnerability they should seek advice from their lead clinician about any precautions they should be taking and other individual arrangements.
- Provide parents with updated advice from Public Health (all current guidance can be found on Support for Schools website).
- All schools have worked hard to complete risk assessments and minimise risk. Parents should be provided with details of all safety measures that have been put in place including staggered start times, social distancing and bubble arrangements, lunch time arrangements etc. Focus on arrangements for specific year groups
- Establish exactly where parents see risk: is it the journey to school for example?
- Ask parents what they see as a solution and if they have an end date in mind.
- Explain the benefits of face to face teaching & working with peers over remote learning that has taken place while schools have been closed.
- Consider implementing a personalised re-engagement plan; different start time, a phased return and access to pastoral staff.
- Consider a referral to the Early Help Team via the Team around the School, school nurse or other medical contact.
- As a last resort, state the Government and school expectation that attendance is mandatory and enforceable with legal action.

TAMESIDE SCHOOL

I'm brushing the dust off my school uniform

It feels like eternity since it's been worn

I fasten my tie and I let out a yawn

It'll feel so good to be back

I perhaps won't be hugging my friends quite as much

And we definitely won't share our baked beans at lunch

We'll be socially distanced but I've got a hunch

It'll still feel good to be back

These months without school have been quite peculiar

Things will feel a bit odd for the foreseeable future

There's no room in my bag for a two metre ruler

But it still feels good to be back

We applauded all of our NHS staff

Our key workers and teachers all deserved our clap

Learning is cool we all know that

It feels so good to be back

WAYS OF HELPING YOUR CHILD GO BACK TO SCHOOL

Plan ahead together – try picturing the morning routine, their uniform, the journey to school

It's OK to feel worried about change - let them know that!

Reassure your child that school is a safe space to be

Focus on what you both can do

Keep talk around the setting positive and open, encourage questions*

Not everything will be different - the staff, building and some routines will still be familiar

They'll be able to meet their school friends again

Give praise when they talk about a worry

*You're not on your own. Contact your school or the Education Welfare service at: education.welfare@tameside.gov.uk or 0161 342 2112 for further guidance and advice.

Tameside Metropolitan Borough

TAMESIDE SCHOOL

Common questions parents and carers want answers to

Answers to commonly asked summer activity and attendance questions.

Social workers can use the below to help support conversations with parents and carers about attendance, signposting them to relevant government guidance.

Topics covered:

- Summer activities
- Attendance
- Early years and childcare attendance
- Elective home education

Attendance

Why is there an attendance drive when we are still in the middle of a pandemic?

Educational settings are the best place for children and young people to learn and get their studies back on track as they prepare for exams next year. It is also great for their overall wellbeing and they get to see their friends and teachers too.

What safety measures will be in place at schools and colleges from the autumn term?

In welcoming all children back this autumn, schools and colleges have been asked to minimise the number of contacts that a child or young person has during the school day.

They must comply with health and safety law, which requires them to assess risks and put in place proportionate control measures. They should thoroughly review their health and safety risk assessments and draw up plans for the autumn term that address any risks identified. Essential measures include:

- a requirement that people who are ill stay at home
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- enhanced cleaning arrangements
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable

How contacts are reduced will depend on the school's circumstances and will (as much as possible) include:

- grouping children together
- avoiding contact between groups

- arranging classrooms with forward facing desks
- staff maintaining distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible

As part of planning for full return in the autumn term, it is a legal requirement that schools and colleges should revisit and update their risk assessments (building on the learning to date and the practices they have already developed), to consider the additional risks and control measures to enable a return to full capacity in the autumn term.

Having assessed their risk, schools and colleges must adopt measures to the fullest extent possible, to address risks identified in their assessment, so that they all the them to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum for their pupils, including full educational and care support for those pupils who have SEND.

My child is increasingly anxious about going back to school. What should I do?

While many children are keen to get back to school, some will have concerns.

Returning to regular attendance is important for children's educational progress, for their wellbeing, and for their wider development.

Schools and colleges will take into consideration the child or young person and the concerns of families and put the right support in place. This may include:

- children and young people who have themselves been shielding previously but have been advised that this is no longer necessary
- those living in households where someone is clinically vulnerable; or
- those concerned about the comparatively increased risk from coronavirus (COVID-19), including those from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds or who have certain conditions such as obesity and diabetes.

If you have a child or children with significant risk factors, you might want to consider having a discussion with the school or college to share your concerns. Schools and colleges can provide reassurance of the measures they are putting in place to reduce the risk.

Schools will expect children and young people of compulsory age to be in school unless a statutory reason applies (for example, the child has been granted a leave of absence, is unable to attend because of sickness, is absent for a necessary religious observance etc). Where children and young people are not able to attend school because they or their parents or carers are following clinical and/or public health advice, absence will not be penalised.

What support is on offer to help my child/children return to school/college/early years setting?

Early years and childcare settings, schools and colleges will understand that some children and young people may be experiencing feelings such as anxiety, stress or low mood as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. There are online resources available to help children with mental health and teachers will be able to offer additional support with their transition back to school.

What support is available for transport to and from school?

Local authorities' duty to provide free home to school transport to eligible children remains the same.

Children are eligible if:

- they are of compulsory school age
- attend their nearest suitable school and it is beyond walking distance
- or are unable to walk to school because of their special educational needs, disability/mobility problems or because the route is unsafe.

There are additional rights to free home to school transport for children aged 8-16 who are entitled to Free School Meals or whose parents are in receipt of the maximum Working Tax Credit.

Refer to your local authority for further information, or alternatively use the government 'Help with home to school transport' tool available on GOV.UK: https://www.gov.uk/help-home-school-transport

Is my child required to wear a mask on the school bus?

Based on current evidence, Public Health England does not recommend the use of face coverings in schools because children and young people and staff are mixing in consistent groups. This may also have an impact on how children and staff communicate. School and college transport, however, is typically a more confined space with the possibility of children from different bubbles mixing.

However, school and college transport is typically a more confined space. It is therefore recommended that children and young people aged 11 and over wear a face covering when travelling to school or college from the autumn term. This does not apply to those who are exempt from wearing a face covering on public transport, or those who may not be able to handle one properly because of their special educational needs or disability.

Can my child/children attend school if they have certain health needs?

Shielding advice for all adults, children and young people paused on 1 August. This means that even the small number of children and young people who will remain on the shielded patient list can return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding.

If in future, rates of the disease rise in local areas, children and young people still on the shielding list (or family members still on the shielding list) from that area, and that area only, may be contacted by the government and advised to stay at home and shield during the period where rates remain high. Families will receive a letter if they are required to shield again that parents will be able to share with the school.

Can I send my child back to school part time or on a phased return if I feel they cannot cope with a full week?

Now that cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) have decreased, school attendance will be mandatory from September, and the usual school attendance rules will apply once again, including the parent or carer's duty to ensure that their child or young person of compulsory school age attends school regularly.

Schools are being asked to work with families to secure regular school attendance from the start of term as this will be essential to help children and young people catch up on missed education, make progress and promote their wellbeing and wider development. Schools should bear in mind the potential concerns of children, young people, parents, carers and households who may be reluctant or anxious about returning and put the right support in place to address this.

My child says they will not return to school. What should I do?

Unless your child is following clinical and/or public health advice, they must be encouraged and supported to return to school. Schools have been asked to bear in mind that some children may have significant risk factors. Where this is the case, it is recommended that they discuss their concerns and provide reassurance of the measures they are putting in place to reduce the risk.

Schools have been asked to be clear with parents and carers that children and young people of compulsory school age must be in school unless a statutory reason applies (for example, the child or young person has been granted a leave of absence, is unable to attend because of sickness, is absent for a necessary religious observance etc).

What will happen if I don't send my child to school in September? Will I get fined?

It is vital for all children and young people to return to school to minimise as far as possible the longer-term impact of the pandemic on their education, wellbeing and wider development.

Now that the number of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases have decreased, school attendance will be mandatory from September, and the usual school attendance rules will apply once again.

This means that, as before, parents and carers have a duty to ensure that their child of compulsory school age attends school regularly. Where this has not been possible, it would be for the school or the local authority to decide if they wish to use a penalty notice as a sanction.

Where children and young people are not able to attend school because they or their parents or carers are following clinical and/or public health advice, absence will not be penalised. When considering the appropriate action to tackle absence, schools and local authorities have been asked to consider the individual circumstances of each child or young person and their family and take the best course of action to support their return to school. Parent and carers are encouraged to work with their child's school and the local authority to discuss the reasons behind their child's absence and together agree an action plan so that the right support can be put in place to help their child to return to regular and consistent education.

My child is looked after by the local authority. How can I make sure I am fully involved in my child's return to school?

The Virtual School Head is the lead responsible officer for promoting the educational achievement of looked-after children, and they will play a key role in supporting the child's return to education.

Where necessary Virtual School Heads will review looked-after children's Personal Education Plans to support a successful return. They will identify individual needs and work with carers, social workers and education settings and, where appropriate, the child's parent, carer and/or relevant family member to address them.

Early years and childcare attendance

I don't feel comfortable sending my child/children back to nursery. Is it compulsory to take up their place/s from September?

Attendance at early years settings remains optional but parents and carers are strongly encouraged to take up a place for their child.

Parents and carers may be may be anxious about sending their child back to childcare. Clear communications with them regarding the safety measures being taken to ensure the safety of their children will be necessary, including the role that they play in their safety.

My child/children can't return to early years/childcare settings because of health reasons. What should I do?

The home learning environment is crucial for child development, and it will be even more so for those children without access to early education. There are many simple ways to help children learn and it does not have to feel like 'learning'. Having everyday conversations, make-believe play and reading together all make a big difference to children's development.

Elective home education

Can I continue educating my child at home without withdrawing them from school?

No, from September the government guidance is for all children and young people, in all year groups, to return to school full-time from the beginning of the autumn term.

Schools will not provide the remote educational support that they provided last term to children and young people at home when they are expected to be present in school. Therefore, the 'home-schooling' arrangements as they were at the height of the pandemic will not continue.

Withdrawing a child or young person from school to educate them at home is considered Elective Home Education (EHE). EHE requires parents or carers to take full responsibility for their child's education, including all costs (like exam fees). Neither schools nor local authorities are required to provide any support to parents or carers that have withdrawn their child for EHE. Support provided by local authorities is discretionary.

Where a child or young person is withdrawn from school for EHE, there is no obligation for the school to keep that place open and if the parent or carer wishes to return their child to school, they may not be able to return to the same school. EHE should always be considered fully, and with the best interests of the child in mind, before a decision is made.

What is the difference between home-schooling and elective home education?

'Home-schooling' was a measure that was brought in to support the education of all children and young people on a school roll who did not attend school during the pandemic. Home-schooling was a combination of support from schools, online

learning resources such as Oak Academy, and other resources parents and carers may have provided themselves.

Elective home education (EHE) is when a child or young person is removed from a school roll and the parent or carer assumes full responsibility for their education. EHE requires parents and carers to take full responsibility for their child's education, including all costs (like exam fees). Neither schools nor local authorities are required to provide any support to parents or carers that have withdrawn their child for EHE. Support provided by local authorities is discretionary.

Where a child or young person is withdrawn from school for EHE, there is no obligation for the school to keep that place open and if the parent or carer wishes to return their child to school, they may not be able to return to the same school.

USEFUL RESOURCES FOR RETURNING TO SCHOOL – Primary Schools

STORY BOOKS

Coronavirus: A Book for Children about Covid-19 Paperback by Elizabeth Jenner, Kate Wilson, Nia Roberts and Axel Scheffler (23rd July 2020) *What is coronavirus, and why is everyone talking about it?* Also available as an eBook https://nosycrowcoronavirus.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/Coronavirus_ABookForChildren.pdf

I Want To Back To Normal Life COVID-19: Children Book to Explain Coronavirus Lockdown 2020, Pandemy and Self Care, For Kids Aged 2-6 by Purple Value Books (27th Apr 2020)

Community Workers & COVID-19 (A Children's Book about Coronavirus) by LoLo Smith, Ingram, Marion D, et al. (27th May 2020)

COVID-19 What Does It Mean? A Children's Rhyming Book about The Coronavirus by Karelia Arauz and Carlos Ampudia (10th May 2020)

Mr Covid Come To Town by Lindsay Payne (30th March 2020)

What is Social Distancing? A Children's Guide & Activity Book Paperback by Lindsey Cocker Luckey (31st March 2020)

Hello, Sunshine: A Child's View on Social-Distancing Paperback by Tasha Marsh and Miranda Marsh (9th April 2020)

The Adventures of Frankie Sausage: Social Distancing by Jilly Moss (14th June 2020)

Billie and the Brilliant Bubble: Social Distancing for Children by Tara Travieso and Bazma Ahmad (23rd June 2020)

Keep Away From Germs: A Children's Story about Social Distancing, Washing Your Hands and Keeping Germs Away Paperback by Taylyn Senec and Uzma Shafiq (25th March 2020)

A Germ's Journey (Follow It!) by Thom Rooke (1st February 2011)

Anna and the Germ that Came to Visit by Christianne Klein (7th April 2020)

The Little Germ that Travelled the World: A story for children about social distancing. (Big Topics for Little People) Paperback by Amelia Bell (15th March 2020)

Now Wash Your Hands! By Matt Carr (25th June 2020)

I Don't Want to Wash My Hands! By Tony Ross (7th Sept 2017)

While We Can't Hug (A Hedgehog and Tortoise Story) by Eoin McLaughlin and Polly Dunbar (25th June 2020)

While We Can't Hug You Tube Video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2PnnFrPaRgY

If You Can't Bear Hug, Air Hug: A Book Inspired by Social Distancing by Katie Sedmak (23rd May 2020)

No hugs. No bugs: 1st Day of School after COVID-19 by Vanessa Williams Johnson and Aliyah S. E. Johnson (18th Jul 2020)

Harry The Hound Returns to School Paperback by Neil Davies (Author), Wendy Steer (Author), Kyle Davies (Illustrator) (2nd May 2020)

Welcome Back Eddie After Lockdown (The Eddie Series) Paperback by Nikki Saunders (12th June 2020)

Gregory Dragon Stays In: A special Gregory Dragon quarantine story Paperback by Greg L Sullivan JR (6th March 2020)

Alone Together by Julia Seal (28th May 2020)

Lucy's Mask by Lisa Sirkis Thompson (17th May 2020)

Real Superheroes by Julia Seal (28th May 2020)

Thank You, Baked Potato by Matt Lucas (4th May 2020)

Bloom (Hope in a Scary World) by Anne Booth (11th June 2020)

The Worrysaurus by Rachel Bright (20th February 2020)

SOCIAL STORIES

Going Back to School After Coronavirus www.senresourcesource.co.uk

What is the Coronavirus? www.senresourcesource.co.uk

What is the Coronavirus? *(with symbols)*
http://www.starsteam.org.uk/media/COVID%20%2019%20Social%20Story%20with%20symbols%20by%20R%20Law.pdf

Information about Coronavirus *(with photo symbols)*
http://www.starsteam.org.uk/media/COVID%20%2019%20Social%20Story%20with%20symbols%20by%20R%20Law.pdf

Social Story Coronavirus https://appleftheteacher.co.uk/download/social-story-coronavirus/

I Miss My Friends and Family www.senresourcesource.co.uk

My Name is Coronavirus
https://static1.squarespace.com/static/57cff93c3e00beaa121daf64/t/5e74b8db7838ec742b0f9a1e/1584707808484/Corona+Social+Story.pdf

What is Social Distancing?
http://www.starsteam.org.uk/media/What%20is%20social%20distancing%20Social%20Story%20by%20London%20Grid%20for%20Learning.pdf

Social Distancing https://inclusiveteach.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Social-Distance-social-story.pdf

ONLINE STORIES AND RESOURCES

Back to School After Coronavirus www.elsa-support.co.uk/back-to-school-after-coronavirus-story

Returning to School After Covid 19
https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/communicationfriendlyenvironments/returning-to-school-after-covi-19/?fbclid=IwAR0-dFr4P1mlCKa_yB8T5E4aVfbqrikNy1lRptBWWYVe1EkwvdJRdGj4Rn0

Going Back to School Advice Powerpoint https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/going-back-to-school-advice-ks2-powerpoint-t-tp-2550125

Coronavirus Explained for Children https://appleftheteacher.co.uk/download/coronavirus-explained-for-children/

Bee Here! Now (A Story about Anxiety and Mindfulness) www.elsa-support.co.uk/bee-linda-bee-mindfulness-story

Someone I Know has the Coronavirus www.elsa-support.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Someone-I-know-has-coronavirus.pdf

Social Contact www.elsa-support.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Social-contact-story.pdf

What is Coronavirus? www.elsa-support.co.uk/coronavirus-story-for-children

Don't Worry Little Bear https://subscriptions.earlyyearsstorybox.com/dont-worry-little-bear-book-updated/?_ga=2.36967781.455554906.1596799480-1066265168.1596799480

Why we stay home? Suzie Learns About Coronavirus by Samantha Harris and David Scott https://27d69637-7884-4b07-a860-4e86d8406e85.filesusr.com/ugd/22785a_4cd8e864678f485096b56f34ed0b56dc.pdf

In It Together: Returning to School After Lockdown https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/when-you-come-back-to-school-eyfs-returning-after-lockdown-powerpoint-t-tp-2549978

ACTIVITIES

We'll Meet Again - *A selection of assembly ideas and class-based activities to support your school community as it comes back together.* https://www.place2be.org.uk/media/yesltwzt/primaryschoolresources.pdf

Back to School https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/pshe-and-citizenship-back-to-school-whole-school-lesson-and-assembly-pack-t-lf-2549093

Time Capsule https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/coronavirus/getting%20back%20to%20school/Embedded%20documents/Welcoming%20pupils%20back/Covid-19%20Time%20Capsule.pdf

My 2020 Covid 19 Time Capsule https://www.kiddycharts.com/assets/2020/04/Covid-19time-capsule.pdf

Celebrating Our Achievements https://youngminds.org.uk/media/3932/celebrating-achievements.pdf

There are various resources on TES. Some are free others may include a charge. Two Powerpoints initially aimed at Year 6: Return to School after Lockdown: The New Normal (Jolande4) and Coronavirus – Return to Schools Powerpoint (joezalewski).

Key Stage 1

Horrible Hands Pack (Key Stage 1) *Linked to various National Curriculum subjects.* https://e-bug.eu/lang_eng/UK%20KS1%20Pack/Horrid%20Hands/Horrid%20Hands%20FULL%20PACK.pdf

Super Sneezes Pack (Key Stage 1) *Linked to various National Curriculum subjects.* https://e-bug.eu/downloads/english/junior/KS1/Super%20Sneezes/Super%20Sneezes%20FULL%20PACK%20UK%202020.pdf

Key Stage 2

Hand Hygiene Pack (Key Stage 2) *Linked to various National Curriculum subjects.* https://e-bug.eu/lang_eng/primary_pack/downloads/hh/Hand%20Hygiene%20Complete%20Pack.pdf

Respiratory Hygiene Pack (Key Stage 2) *Linked to various National Curriculum subjects.* https://e-bug.eu/downloads/english/junior/KS2/Respiratory%20Hygiene/Respiratory%20Hygiene%20Complete%20Pack%20UK%202020.pdf

WELLBEING ACTIVITIES

Lockdown Memory Game www.elsa-support.co.uk/lock-down-memory-game

Worry Jar www.elsa-support.co.uk/worry-jar

A to Z of Wellbeing After Lockdown www.elsa-support.co.uk/a-to-z-of-wellbeing-after-lockdown

Post Lockdown Wellbeing Questionnaire www.elsa-support.co.uk/post-lockdown-wellbeing-questionnaire

Anxiety Thermometer www.elsa-support.co.uk/anxiety-thermometer

Takeaway Bag (Memories of Lockdown) www.elsa-support.co.uk/takeaway-bag

Lockdown Reflections www.elsa-support.co.uk/2020-lockdown-reflections

Relaxation Tips and Worksheet www.elsa-support.co.uk/just-relax

POSTERS AND SIGNS

Social Distancing Posters for Educational Settings
https://applefortheteacher.co.uk/download/social-distancing-posters-for-education-settings/

Coronavirus Social Distancing Posters for Children
https://applefortheteacher.co.uk/download/coronavirus-physical-distancing-posters-for-children/

We are in the Superheroes Team (Two posters) www.elsa-support.co.uk/coronavirus-superhero-team

Hand Washing (Elephant Count) www.elsa-support.co.uk/elephant-handwashing-to-support-our-story-on-coronavirus

I will try to .....
https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5157614de4b06ce8229f34fb/t/5ecf5c0e7112f61d1be05541/1590647824031/I+will+try+Poster.pdf

Save hugs for your family
https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5157614de4b06ce8229f34fb/t/5ecf5c523ae2372e77444971/1590647891694/Save+Hugs+Poster.pdf

Useful signs https://www.widgit.com/resources/popular-topics/back-to-school-june/back-to-school-wider-opening-toolkit.pdf

Clean hands protection https://www.who.int/gpsc/clean_hands_protection/en/

Hand washing symbols http://www.starsteam.org.uk/media/hand%20washing.JPG

Talking Mat – Social Distancing and Self Isolating
http://www.starsteam.org.uk/media/Talking%20Mat%20–%20Social%20distancing%20and%20self-isolating.pdf

Social Distancing Rule Cards
https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1fz3pT2ujwYQbxPgkld00iXNNkHGJsYy7_SyaV6k90JY/edit#slide=id.p

Social Distancing Images https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1aXC-M4kV7hZy50rztxw5Un4nTfFMiNrMDkcq_N1B00g/edit#slide=id.p

YOU TUBE

In it together after lockdown – by Twinkl Original Story
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_SFjuYaNc8Y

New Zealand's 'Moist Breath song' https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZvtoVrykb8

Two Meters Away - Social Distancing Song https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3nQgTywKmvQ

Greeters from two Metres (Song) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=klsc0GiqUyg

5 Steps on Social Distancing https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_8IdNV_QmxQ

Coronavirus Outbreak: How to protect yourself (Dr. Panda TotoTime)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PkUlCIFE45M

I'm a Hand Washer *(Key Stage 1 Song)* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e9xQJNGoy6I

Wash My Hands Rap https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZ3oSvfiwU4

We Wear Masks (*A Social Story)* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lnP-uMn6q_U

Why Do People Wear Masks? (*Key Stage 1 Song)* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iE6L-4tO-rs

Why Do People Wear Masks? *(Key Stage 2 Rap)*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMVsCwKeARQ

OTHER RESOURCES

Resources for schools and parents to help the return to school. *Public Health England has a produced a range of free resources for schools and parents to reassure families about the return to school and to help ensure that it happens safely.* https://www.dcfp.org.uk/school-return-resources/

Supporting Pupils to Return to School. *Easy to read* practical advice, strategies and activities *for school staff.* https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/coronavirus/returning-school-after-lockdown/support-pupils-return-to-school

Online course for teachers and resources https://www.schudio.tv/courses/preparing-autistic-send-children-for-going-back-to-school

Mental health guidelines for coping with Coronavirus
https://www.tameside.gov.uk/mentalhealthsupport

NSPCC https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/childrens-mental-health/depression-anxiety-mental-health/?gclsrc=aw.ds&&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIusiazY7H6QIVxu7tCh0isAFMEAAYASAAEgKQA_D_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds

Young Minds https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/supporting-your-child-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/

Bright Horizons https://www.brighthorizons.com/family-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid19

Twinkl has a wide selection of resources to support children attending school from September through their premium membership.

Building resilient schools centred on wellbeing after Covid-19 https://nteysis.org.uk/settling-pupils-back-into-school-after-covid-19/

Tameside Metropolitan Borough

TAMESIDE SCHOOL

USEFUL RESOURCES FOR RETURNING TO SCHOOL – High Schools

Returning to school in September after the enforced school closure will, for most parents and pupils be an exciting and joyful time. Pupils will resume their friendships and return to having routine and order in their lives. However, it is recognised that some parents and pupils may experience a degree of anxiety. The Education Welfare Service have put together some exciting resources which may help when working with pupils. These resources have been collected from a variety of sources.

The Early Help Team are offering to work with families who are displaying high levels of anxiety about returning to school after Covid-19. This support can be accessed via your team around the School.

Websites:

Young Scot: *"It's easy to feel a bit overwhelmed and scared by everything you're hearing about coronavirus disease (COVID-19) right now. Find out more about what's happening and the simple steps you can take to help prevent catching COVID-19 and spreading to others. Also find out more about what you can do if you are feeling anxious and worried, and how you can support others in your community."*

FAQs, messages from health professionals, information about how the virus affects wellbeing & mental health, education, finances and lots more
https://young.scot/campaigns/national/coronavirus

Lesson Plans:

Public Health England has a produced a range of **free resources for schools and parents** to reassure families about the return to school and to help ensure that it happens safely.

e-Bug: " *This section aims to teach students how poor hand hygiene can lead to the spread of microbes and disease.*
In 2.1 Hand hygiene, students carry out an experiment to observe how microbes can spread from person to person simply by shaking their hands. They will also have to decide which method is best for hand washing."
https://e-bug.eu/lang_eng/secondary_pack/downloads/hh/Hand%20Hygiene%20Complete%20Pack.pdf

e-Bug: "*This section aims to teach students how poor respiratory hygiene can lead to the spread of microbes and disease.*
In 2.2 Respiratory Hygiene, students observe on a large scale how far microbes are carried when they sneeze and how many people can be affected. Through a set of trial experiments, students learn that covering your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough, or sneeze helps prevent the spread of infection.
The extension activity asks students to consider how far a virus can spread in 1 week. The results can be astounding!"

https://e-bug.eu/downloads/english/senior/Respiratory%20Hygiene/Respiratory%20Hygiene%20Complete%20Pack%20UK%202020.pdf

ebug:
https://e-bug.eu/senior_pack.aspx?cc=eng&ss=3&t=Senior Schools-e-Bug Lesson Pack

TES: "How can we live our best lives and get back on track now we're back at school?"
https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/back-to-school-after-covid-19-ks3-12344290

Assembly Ideas

Place2Be: *"We'll meet again A selection of assembly ideas and class-based activities from Place2Be to support your school community as it comes back together."*
file:///C:/Users/Maxine.Carroll/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/69F3AD01/Secondary%20School%20Return%20to%20School%20-%20We'll%20meet%20again%20(Pace2Be).pdf

Advice Sheets

Solihull MBC: Supporting pupils' to return to school - 5 steps to success
https://socialsolihull.org.uk/localoffer/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2020/06/5-Steps-to-Success-advice-for-staff-secondary.pdf

Solihull MBC: Supporting the return to school – Managing tricky situations
https://socialsolihull.org.uk/localoffer/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2020/06/Managing-Tricky-Situations-secondary.pdf

Classroom activities

Solihull MBC: Coping with Change
https://socialsolihull.org.uk/localoffer/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2020/06/Coping-with-change-activities-to-support-young-people-preparing-to-return-secondary.pdf

Solihull MBC: Scales to express feelings about returning to school
Pupil scaling activities for returning to school (Word)

Solihull MBC: Feeling safe,
https://socialsolihull.org.uk/localoffer/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2020/06/Reintegration-post-COVID-Secondary-pupil-support-Lyndon-and-SISS-Part-2.pdf

Solihull MBC: Feeling Anxious
https://socialsolihull.org.uk/localoffer/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2020/06/Reintegration-post-COVID-Secondary-pupil-support-Lyndon-and-SISS-Part-3.pdf

Social Stories
S Glos: Parent & Carers social story
https://static1.squarespace.com/static/57cff93c3e00beaa121daf64/t/5ec52df139ecdc5da98151f5/1589980671509/Social+Story+-+Going+back+to+school%5B1914%5D.pdf