



This is your daily email to keep you updated on the government's response to coronavirus (COVID-19).

Guidance on remote education practices for schools during coronavirus (COVID-19)

We have published guidance on remote education practice for schools during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. This guidance is based on the current experiences and practices of teachers and school leaders with case studies and information about:

- › supporting pupils' wellbeing
- › adapting teaching practice for remote education
- › adapting the curriculum for remote education
- › keeping pupils motivated and engaged

The guidance can be found here:

- › <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/remote-education-practice-for-schools-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

The case studies can be found here:

- › <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/case-studies-remote-education-practice-for-schools-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Guidance on getting technology support for children and schools during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak can be found here:

- › <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-help-with-technology-for-remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Department for Education funding for training on digital platforms

We recently announced that we have partnered with Google and Microsoft to help schools to access education platforms. To support schools get set up and use the resource effectively, government-funded training of up to £2,000 is available.

Schools can apply for this funding through the Key for School Leaders:

- › <https://covid19.thekeysupport.com/covid-19/deliver-remote-learning/make-tech-work-you/digital-education-platform-hub/>

Schools and colleges can register their interest to receive peer-led advice and training on the use of online platforms here:

- › <https://edtech-demonstrator.lgfl.net/>

Eligibility for government childcare offers protected

The government has announced that any working parent usually eligible for 30 hours free childcare or Tax-Free Childcare will remain eligible if they fall below the minimum income requirement due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Subject to Parliamentary approval, parents who are critical workers will also remain eligible for these entitlements if their income has increased over the maximum threshold during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

This temporary flexibility will ensure critical workers can continue to access the childcare they need to enable them to work. These arrangements will be reviewed over the summer.

This announcement can be found here:

- › <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/eligibility-for-government-childcare-offers-protected>

Ofqual publishes initial decisions on GCSE and A level grading proposals for 2020

Ofqual has published their initial decisions on the consultation for the exceptional arrangements they have put in place for awarding GCSEs, AS and A levels this summer.

Ofqual has announced that students entered for these exams in year 10 and below will be eligible to receive calculated grades this summer.

Further details on the outcome of the consultation can be found here:

- › <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofqual-publishes-initial-decisions-on-gcse-and-a-level-grading-proposals-for-2020>

The information below has not changed since yesterday.

Department for Education coronavirus helpline – Friday 8 May Bank Holiday opening hours

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care.

Phone: 0800 046 8687

The helpline will remain open over the early May Bank Holiday weekend for staff, parents and young people as follows:

10am to 4pm – Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Our standard opening hours will resume on Monday 11 May:

8am to 6pm – Monday to Friday

10am to 4pm – Saturday and Sunday

If you work in a school, please have your unique reference number (URN or UK PRN) available when calling the helpline.

Handwashing advice

It is essential that everyone washes their hands more often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus. Hand sanitiser can be effective if soap is not available or the situation makes using soap less feasible (i.e. when outside) but using hand sanitiser provides none of the virus-destroying friction that rubbing your hands together and rinsing with water provides.

The latest guidance and video on hand washing can be found at:

• <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

The e-Bug project is led by Public Health England and has a dedicated webpage for learning resources on hand washing and respiratory hygiene.

Resources are currently available for KS1, KS2 and KS3 and can be used in various settings including schools and at home:

- › <https://e-bug.eu/>

Collection of guidance for educational settings on GOV.UK

All of the Department for Education's coronavirus guidance for educational settings can now be found in one place on GOV.UK at:

- › <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings>

Our main schools guidance, the 'actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak' will be regularly kept up to date. Any new advice for schools on specific issues, such as food, exams or safeguarding, will be linked from:

- › <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures>