

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

## Updated guidance for parents and carers

We have updated our guidance for parents and carers on [what they need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#). This update provides information on school admission appeals, entry tests for selective schools, and exams and assessments in the autumn term.

We have also provided further information on the use of face coverings in schools and links to online resources that are available to help parents, carers and children with their mental health and wellbeing.

## Guidance for schools and local authorities on improving school attendance

We have published new guidance for schools and local authorities to support them to [improve school attendance](#). This guidance sets out the principles underpinning an effective whole school strategy for attendance and provides actions that school leaders, teachers, attendance staff and local authorities may consider taking to improve attendance for all pupils, pupils at risk of persistent absence, and pupils who are persistently absent.

This guidance is intended as optional support to schools as they return to full attendance from the start of the autumn term and carry out any re-assessment of attendance policies and practice.

## **Devices available for children who cannot attend school due to coronavirus (COVID-19)**

The Department will provide more [laptops and tablets for disadvantaged children to access remote education](#) if local coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions are required. Devices are also available for disadvantaged and clinically extremely vulnerable children who are shielding or self-isolating following official public health advice.

We have written to local authorities and academy trusts to let them know they can now choose to let schools order their own devices. If your local authority or academy trust makes you responsible for ordering, you will get an email with details about nominating contacts and [how to order](#).

In the meantime, we recommend schools prepare by thinking about who in the school is best suited to place orders for devices, and by reading more about [which pupils will be allocated devices](#).

Find out more about the [Get help with technology programme](#).

## **Updated guidance on providing apprenticeships during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak**

We have updated our [guidance for apprentices, employers, training providers and assessment organisations on the provision of apprenticeships during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#) to include information on the new incentive payment for hiring a

new apprentice and confirmation that we are planning to restart routine funding audits from September 2020.

We have also provided information on how apprentices who have been made redundant, or who are at risk of redundancy, can access online and telephone support through the Redundancy Support Service for Apprentices.

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The information below hasn't changed since yesterday.

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## **Exam Results Helpline now available until 18 September**

The Exam Results Helpline, delivered by the National Careers Service, has been extended and will now be available until 18 September to provide additional support to students and their parents as they consider their next steps. Callers to the helpline will have direct access to experienced careers advisers who can advise on the different options available to them including T levels, A levels, GCSEs, BTECs, apprenticeships and other vocational options. Support will also be available on topics such as clearing, university, gap years and the autumn exam series.

Phone: 0800 100 900

Opening hours: Monday to Sunday from 8am to 10pm

## **Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline**

The Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline by calling:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm.