



## Updates from Ofsted and the DFE April 2021

Please click on the links below to access documents.

### **[Ofsted: coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rolling update - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofsted-coronavirus-co...)**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofsted-coronavirus-co...>

Updated 29 March 2021- Ofsted

Ofsted have confirmed that the full programme of graded school inspections will resume in autumn 2021.

Any 'full' education inspection framework (EIF) inspections carried out in the summer term will maintain the 4 key judgements, but with additional flexibility in recognition of current contexts. Ofsted is piloting changes to inspection methods to take account of the challenges raised by COVID-19.

**Ofsted will publish an updated set of EIF handbooks after the Easter break.**

From 4 May, some inspections under the EIF will restart and will take place on site. These include section 8 monitoring inspections of schools graded 'inadequate', and those graded 'requires improvement' at their last 2 consecutive full inspections.

In line with Ofsted's usual policy, where inspectors find evidence that an inadequate school has improved and is no longer inadequate, they will be able to convert this to a [section 5 \('full'\) inspection](#), which will be graded.

Where inspectors find evidence that a 'requires improvement' school has improved, they will recommend that a full inspection is carried out before the end of the summer term.

Ofsted will also inspect 'good' schools that, due to the pandemic, have not had an inspection within the statutory 5-year window. These will be section 8 inspections and follow their usual approach to inspecting good schools, as outlined in the [section 8 school inspection handbook](#).

'Outstanding' schools will also be able to request an inspection. When considering requests, they will prioritise those schools that have gone the longest without an inspection. School leaders can request an inspection by writing to the relevant Ofsted regional director.

Ofsted will continue to prioritise inspections of all schools where significant concerns are raised, when necessary.

Under these plans, most schools will not receive an inspection until the programme of routine inspections restarts in September.

#### **Registered early years providers**

On-site EIF inspections of registered early years providers will begin from 4 May. Ofsted will prioritise providers:

- judged less than good at their last inspection (including those who received an interim visit in the autumn term)
- that registered recently but have not been inspected

- whose first inspection is overdue
- that were not inspected in the last inspection cycle due to the pause in routine inspection

Ofsted will continue to carry out urgent inspections if they have significant concerns about a provider.

[Press release: Education inspections in the summer term](#)

Published 29 March - Ofsted

Ofsted will not return to a full programme of graded inspections until September.

Ofsted is currently piloting some limited changes to inspection methods to take account of the challenges raised by COVID-19. An updated set of inspection handbooks with full details of these changes will be published after the Easter break. Ofsted is also working closely with Sir Kevan Collins on how its work can support the longer term education recovery.

## [Amanda Spielman's speech at the ASCL Annual Conference ...](#)

<https://www.gov.uk> › [government](#) › [speeches](#) › [amanda...](#)

17 March 2021- Ofsted- Amanda Spielman- Ofsted's Chief Inspector

Below is an excerpt from Amanda Spielman's speech about remote learning;

'That's not to say that this experience hasn't been useful. As we've highlighted in our research, you now have stronger approaches to remote education for those who do need to learn at home – such as those with long term illnesses.

Parent-teacher interaction has also been well-served by technology. Many parents are probably more engaged with their children's education now than ever before. That could mark the beginning of stronger and more constructive partnerships between teachers and parents.

## [Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak - GOV.UK](#)

<https://www.gov.uk> › [government](#) › [publications](#) › [acti...](#)

Updated 26.3.21- DFE

The following are a small selection from this useful document.

### **Primary assessment**

The DFE have cancelled the statutory Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 tests and key teacher assessments planned for summer 2021, including the Key Stage 2 tests in reading and mathematics. You should continue to use assessment during the summer term, using past test papers if you wish. This will inform teaching, enable you to give information to parents on their child's attainment in their annual report, and support transition to secondary school.

We are planning for a full programme of primary assessments to take place in the 2021 to 2022 academic year.

### **Music, dance and drama in school**

You should continue teaching music, dance and drama as part of your school curriculum, especially as this builds pupils' confidence and supports their wellbeing. There may, however, be an additional risk of infection in environments where singing, chanting, playing wind or brass instruments, dance or drama takes place.

Singing, wind and brass instrument playing can be undertaken in line with this and other guidance, including guidance provided by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) on [working safely during coronavirus \(COVID-19\) in the performing arts](#).

Schools can continue to engage peripatetic teachers during this period.

### **Educational day visits**

In line with the roadmap, should step 2 commence as planned, schools can resume educational day visits no earlier than 12 April.

Any educational day visits must be conducted in line with relevant coronavirus (COVID-19) secure guidelines and regulations in place at that time. This includes system of controls, such as keeping children within their consistent groups and the COVID-secure measures in place at the destination.

[Webinar: Inspecting in the current circumstances – exploring the possibilities – spring term 2021](#) - Ofsted's East of England regional team deliver a webinar for school leaders.

Published 25 February 2021

A useful 1 hour webinar for anyone expecting an inspection before September 2021.

[Video: Sean Harford on data](#) – A short 1.24 minute video in which Sean Harford, Ofsted's National Director, Education, talks about Ofsted inspectors not looking at internal data during inspection.

Published 23 March 2021

He also says 'We're not after looking at a self-evaluation Form, the kind of things we will look at are development plans, where you've done such analysis, and key is what you've done to act on that information and how its having an impact on the learning of your children.'

[Video: Sean Harford on curriculum intent](#) - A short 1 minute video in which Sean Harford, Ofsted's National Director, Education, talks about schools not needing to write intent statements.

Published 23 March 2021

He says 'You don't need to be writing intent statements. The intent really is about the content of your curriculum, what you want children to know about, what you want them to be able to do at certain points through their career at your school. It's the curriculum you plan not these vague intent statements.'

[Video: 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 SEND. Ofsted have published three short supplementary videos on SEND and remote education: [what has worked well](#), [learning for the future](#) and [bridging the gap](#). They have also published a [discussion pack for leaders and practitioners](#).

Published 2 March 2021- Ofsted

The DFE have published updated guidance for schools and local authorities on [how to use their Pupil Premium funding](#).

Updated 30 March 2021- DFE

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9. [Pupil premium plus](#)

[Review your remote education provision framework ... - Gov.uk](#)

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/file/Re...>

12 January 2021- DFE

This useful framework has been produced to support schools in England to identify the strengths and areas for improvement in their remote education provision, and to signpost them to resources that can help them improve their practice.

## [Ofsted to publish new series of subject reviews and reports ...](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-to-p...)

[https://www.gov.uk > government > news > ofsted-to-p...](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-to-p...)

30 March 2021- Ofsted

From April 2021, Ofsted will publish a series of subject reviews and reports, taking a 'state of the nation' look at curriculum quality across primary and secondary schools. The documents will be published in two phases, beginning with the research reviews in the summer term.

They have published a useful report that sets out the [principles underpinning Ofsted's series of research reviews and subject reports](#).

Ofsted state

'This is only the start of our work in this area, though. As a force for improvement, we will be publishing a series of documents from April 2021, including:

- research reviews: these will collate currently available research evidence. We will consider what published research evidence tells us about a high-quality education in each subject
- subject reports: we will inform leaders, teachers and tutors, parents and policymakers about what we have learned about the state of the nation when it comes to the quality of school curriculum in a range of subjects

To carry out this work and lead on our curriculum thinking in schools, we have set up a curriculum unit. We have been recruiting subject leads for a range of subjects, starting with national curriculum subjects and religious education. These subject experts will be leading this work, along with our research team.

The EIF allows us to gather rich evidence on the quality of subject education using our deep-dive methodology.

The subject reports will report on:

- schools' understanding of progress in each subject and how that informs their approaches to the curriculum
- the extent to which teaching supports the goals of the subject curriculum
- the effectiveness of assessment used
- the extent to which there is a climate of high expectations in subjects, where a pupil's interest in the subject can flourish
- the quality of systems around subject teaching and support for subject-specific staff development
- the extent to which whole-school policies affect the capacity for effective subject education
- access to the curriculum in the case of teaching pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)

## [Guidance for schools: coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/guidance...)

[https://www.gov.uk > government > collections > guida...](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/guidance...)

Updated 16 March 2021- DFE

What parents and carers need to know about attending nurseries, schools and colleges

[Early years and childcare](#) · [Covid-19](#) · [Special schools and other...](#)

A good resource to put on your website.

### **Support available for schools and their early career teachers**

Details of the lead providers for the national roll-out of the Early Career Framework (ECF) reforms and additional funding for all state schools to deliver the reforms are now available. [Read more about the ECF reforms.](#)

### **Government review into sexual abuse in schools**

The DFE are taking the following action:

- Ofsted will undertake an immediate review of safeguarding policies in state and independent schools. The review will look at the extent and the severity of the issue and ensure schools have appropriate processes in place to allow pupils to report concerns freely, knowing these will be taken seriously and dealt with swiftly and appropriately.
- A new NSPCC dedicated helpline will provide support and guidance to any victims of sexual abuse in schools. This includes how to contact the police and report crimes if they wish.

Young people and adults can contact the NSPCC helpline on **0800 136 663**. [Read more about this announcement on GOV.UK.](#)

### **Support for tuition and catch up**

Over 4,000 schools and 100,000 children are now enrolled with an approved [National Tutoring Programme](#) Tuition Partner and over 1,000 Academic Mentors are now working in schools. Get started with tuition in your school; [search for Tuition Partners working in your area](#)

### **Support for PE and sport premium funding**

The 31 March 2021 deadline has been extended to the end of the year for primary schools to have spent any carried forward [PE and sport premium funding](#) from the 2019/20 academic year.

### **[Teaching music in schools - GOV.UK](#)**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teac...>

Published 26 March 2021- DFE

The Department for Education has published a [new music curriculum](#) for Key Stages 1, 2 and 3. The plans to refresh music lessons follow the full return to school for all pupils, and alongside wider plans to help pupils recover time out of the classroom.

As part of the curriculum, pupils will learn about the great composers of the world and develop their knowledge and skills in reading and writing music. They will be taught about a range of genres and styles covering historically-important composers such as Vivaldi and Scott Joplin, world renowned pieces like Puccini's *Nessun Dorma*, and be introduced to instruments and singing from Year 1

### **[Shielding advice for the clinically extremely vulnerable to stop ...](#)**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/shielding-a...>

Updated 18 March 2021

Advice to the clinically extremely vulnerable to shield ceases from Thursday 1 April.

In line with the government's [COVID-19 Response - Spring 2021](#) roadmap published last month, those on the shielded patient list can begin to follow the national restrictions alongside the rest of the population, but are still advised to take extra precautions to keep themselves safe from COVID-19.

The DFE have produced a [leaflet to support your conversations with clinically extremely vulnerable \(CEV\) families](#) who may be feeling anxious about the changing guidance for CEV people. From Thursday 1 April, CEV people are no longer advised to shield, meaning CEV children should attend school or college unless they are one of the very small number of children under paediatric or other specialist care and have been advised by their GP or clinician not to attend.

## **[Protective measures for holiday or after-school ... - GOV.UK](#)**

<https://www.gov.uk> > [government](#) > [publications](#) > [prot...](#)

Updated 26 March 2021 DFE

Protective measures for providers of community activities, holiday or after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school settings offering provision to children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. ... clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

The main changes include:

- updated advice on [group sizes](#) for outdoor activities from 29 March
- information on the expansion of [asymptomatic testing](#), which provides wraparound childcare staff with more options for accessing asymptomatic test kits
- updated guidance on [educational visits](#)
- updated guidance on [clinically extremely vulnerable \(CEV\) children and staff](#)

## **Early Years and childcare First Aid Certificate**

If your paediatric first aid certificate expired on or after 1 October 2020, the DFE has advised that this will be valid until 31 March 2021. After this you will need to have an up-to-date certificate.

## **[Kick-start for summer school and activities - GOV.UK](#)**

<https://www.gov.uk> > [Education, training and skills](#)

30 March 2021- DFE

£200 million total summer school funding to be distributed in secondary schools







