

# School Improvement Service

Daily Covid Support briefing  
Wednesday 3 March 2021

Good evening

## ATTENDANCE

The link to [the latest DfE guidance](#) is available for schools to refer to when working with families, particularly those families who may be concerned about being in a household where there is a clinically extremely vulnerable person. We know some parents will be feeling anxious about their children returning to school or college.

Guidance has also been released on recording non-attendance in relation to coronavirus. This year the census will collect attendance codes in addition to absence codes.

- [Recording attendance in relation to Coronavirus](#)
- [Recording non-attendance in relation to Coronavirus](#)

## CURRICULUM SWIMMING FROM 8<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021

Whilst the over-arching principles outlined in the [Schools coronavirus \(COVID-19\) operational guidance](#) states that:

- Education is not optional
- The curriculum remains broad and ambitious

It is also important to consider the practicalities of delivering the full curriculum under the current government guidance. For pupils in Key Stages 1 and 2 the curriculum should be broad and a full range of subjects are taught over the year which includes physical education and sport. Full details regarding the delivery of physical activity in schools can be found on page 58 of the Schools coronavirus (COVID-19) operational guidance.

With specific regard to swimming, it is stated that 'external facilities can also be used in line with government guidance for the use of, and travel to and from, those facilities.'

Current Government guidance permits certain businesses to open for a small number of exempt activities. A full list of exemptions can be found in the [guidance on closing certain businesses and venues in England](#), but includes:

- education and training – for schools to use sports, leisure and community facilities where that is part of their normal provision

On the basis of the above information and reassessing previous guidance and in consultation with the Health and Safety Team we consider that it would be appropriate for schools to resume curriculum swimming lessons subject to following appropriate Covid secure principles which should be evidenced through appropriate risk management.

Contact: Your named Educational Visits Officer

### INFORMATION & SIGNPOSTING TO TRAINING AND RESOURCES FOR NORTH YORKSHIRE SCHOOLS TO SUPPORT THE MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF PUPILS RETURNING TO SCHOOL

NYCC support for schools opening to a larger number of pupils during COVID-19 when considering the wellbeing aspects  
The aim of this information is to support schools to consider a range of wellbeing aspects for when reopening to pupils with signposting to a range of supporting guidance documents and resources. It is hoped that the majority of pupils will settle back into the school routine with support and guidance. It is normal that they will have worries and concerns, but through careful planning for their wellbeing and strong relationships with peers and staff the majority of pupils should re-settle.

The following information sheets can be used to signpost pupils, parents/ carers and staff to further support and information available locally in North Yorkshire and some national resources.

Information sheet to support for pupils and parents in primary schools during COVID-19 in relation to mental and emotional wellbeing

Information sheet to support for pupils and parents in secondary schools during COVID-19 in relation to mental and emotional wellbeing

Information sheet to support staff wellbeing during COVID-19 in relation to wellbeing

North Yorkshire Healthy Schools Website has a range of further supporting resources to support Emotional health and wellbeing and staff wellbeing.

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The Department for Education signposts to free wellbeing and mental health information and resources for education staff, children and young people and parents and carers [here](#).

**Mentally healthy schools** have a range of guidance and practical tools to support children’s mental health during the coronavirus crisis and return to school [here](#)

**Training resources for education staff to support schools protect and strengthen their whole school resilience to the wellbeing and mental health impacts of Covid-19**

Education staff have a key role to play in supporting children and young people’s wellbeing and mental health. By helping pupils acknowledge and understand how they feel, education staff can help prevent normal emotions from developing into more entrenched mental health issues. Through identifying warning signs early, they can also help ensure children and young people get the right support.

**'Every interaction matters'** is a short, pre-recorded webinar with audio for schools. The webinar should take about 45-60 minutes to complete, including the suggested activity. It can be done as an all-staff session or staff can independently access the materials. The webinar is intended to support staff in promoting wellbeing, resilience and mental health, building on staffs existing skills, qualities and role. It introduces a straightforward framework for engaging pupils, your colleagues and yourselves and parents and carers - 'Look, Listen, Link'.

The original wellbeing for education return training materials are accessible for schools and are more in-depth than the 'Every Interaction Matters' webinar. These training materials cover wider issues such as the impact of the pandemic, wellbeing and resilience (Webinar 1) and bereavement, loss, anxiety, stress and trauma (Webinar 2). Schools can access the full content [here](#) (click on 'full content' then 'play' on the top two slide packs).

**Psychological First Aid online training course for supporting children and young people in emergency and crisis situations**

The free online course offers training for staff and volunteers on how to provide practical and emotional support to children and young people affected by emergencies or crisis situations. As you will be aware, children and young people can be very resilient, but crises such as COVID-19 can severely impact their mental health. Getting the right support early on can help prevent problems occurring or worsening.

The course is available for all frontline workers such as teachers, health and social care workers, charity and community volunteers and anyone who cares for or is regularly in contact with children and young people aged up to 25, including parents and caregivers. It is free, takes about three hours to complete (split into three sessions that the learner can complete at their own pace) and no previous qualifications are required.

For any further information or advice please contact Clare Barrowman, Health and Wellbeing Adviser, School Improvement team, [clare.barrowman@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:clare.barrowman@northyorks.gov.uk) or 07969 103741

# Curriculum Conversations

## For RE teachers in Yorkshire



**Ofsted and the Religious Education Curriculum— Dr Richard Kueh HMI**

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021 4.15-5.15pm

Booking by Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ofsted-and-the-religious-education-curriculum-tickets-141942639255>

This one hour online session for RE teachers and subject leads will provide an opportunity to hear from Dr Richard Kueh, one of Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) and Ofsted's Subject Lead for Religious Education. The session will focus on the place of Religious Education in Ofsted's Education Inspection Framework and will include a time for questions.

**Being ambitious: A religion and worldviews curriculum for all —Dr Kathryn Wright**

Tuesday 8th June 2021 4.15-5.30pm

Booking by Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/being-ambitious-a-religion-and-worldviews-curriculum-for-all-tickets-141944380463>

This online session for RE teachers and subject leads will provide an opportunity to hear from Dr Kathryn Wright, CEO Culham St Gabriels. The session will focus on principles for building an ambitious RE curriculum for all. The session will include conversation on national developments on curriculum and will include time for discussion and questions.



**Regional conversation** An opportunity to reflect on what we have learnt so far

Thursday 24th June 4.15pm. Details to follow

Events will take place via Zoom. Sessions are limited to 75 places and places are prioritised for teachers in Yorkshire

**Coming in the Autumn term....**

### Primary Stream

Designing an effective RE curriculum  
A focus on EYFS and the RE curriculum  
Engaging in research in the Primary Classroom  
A focus on Text and Story in the Primary Classroom  
How to tackle anti-racism in the primary Classroom

### Secondary Stream

From conversation to implementation: constructing an RE curriculum  
Engaging in research in the Secondary Classroom  
A focus on A-Level RE  
A focus on diversity in Islam  
How to tackle anti-racism in the secondary Classroom