

School Improvement Service

Daily Update

Thursday 7th January 2021

Dear Colleagues

We are aware of the pressure on schools with regard to places for critical workers and vulnerable children. Detailed guidance has been published this afternoon by the DfE: [Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

This guidance includes new information on:

Attendance – including confirmation of who should attend (including in alternative provision and special schools) and how attendance should be recorded

Testing – including confirmation that the testing programme can continue in secondary schools

Workforce – including advice for those who are extremely clinically vulnerable

Free School Meals

Educational visits – confirmation that no visits should take place during this period

Remote education – including further information on remote education expectations

Accountability expectations – including inspections, exams and assessments

The STA have provided an [Update on Statutory Assessments](#) and can be viewed here.

Remote support & technology links

Information on getting laptops and tablets for those children that cannot attend school

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-laptops-and-tablets-for-children-who-cannot-attend-school-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=d68a9a33-b21e-425e-95fa-30e9f5b37487&utm_content=immediate

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-help-with-technology-for-remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=15489127-e0fe-47b1-878c-8a7ad55767cc&utm_content=immediate

Increasing data allowances on mobile devices to support disadvantaged children

Schools, academy trusts and local authorities can now request help to [increase mobile data allowances](#) for children and young people who:

- do not have fixed broadband at home
- cannot afford additional data for their devices
- are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education.

Mobile data increases can also be requested when schools report a closure or have pupils self-isolating.

Schools can also make requests for children who cannot attend school face-to-face because they are clinically extremely vulnerable or restrictions pre-vent them from going to school.

If increasing mobile data isn't a suitable option for some children, schools can also [request 4G wireless routers](#).

Useful Resources

The updated [Guide for Education Settings Supporting CYP MH EWB as a Result of COVID-19](#)