



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

New guidance on the provision of initial teacher training (ITT)

We have published guidance on initial teacher training provision. These measures ensure trainees are given a fair opportunity to qualify and to safeguard teacher supply, balanced against the need to ensure those awarded qualified teacher status are of the appropriate standard.

The guidance can be found here:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-initial-teacher-training-itt>

Updated guidance for parents and carers on the closure of education settings

We have updated our guidance for parents and carers on the closure of educational settings to include information about the Easter holidays, examinations, and educational resources and support.

The guidance can be found here:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Updated guidance for schools about temporarily closing

We have updated our main guidance on the temporary closure of schools to include information on funding, Easter holidays and the practicalities of closures.

You can read the guidance here:

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

Update on national voucher scheme for schools providing free school meals

Since launching the national free school meals voucher scheme, a large number of schools have activated their account with Edenred to support eligible pupils and their families. Every school was sent an activation email for the scheme between 31 March and 02 April. If you have not received an activation email for the scheme, please check your 'junk' folder before emailing freeschoolmeals@edenred.com. You will be directed to an online form and your details will be verified within 5 days, and a new activation email will be sent.

If you have ordered eCodes and are waiting for them to be delivered, this can take up to 72 hours. Please check the status of your order for further information:

- If your order shows as 'Paid', your order is being processed with the eCodes being generated before they're passed to 'fulfilled'. This stage can take up to 48 hours.
- If your order shows as 'Fulfilled', the eCodes are in the process of being emailed out and should be received within 24 hours.

Full details of this scheme can be found here:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance>

Reminder to submit the daily online attendance return to the Department for Education

All educational settings should continue to submit their daily online attendance form throughout the Easter holidays. Your data helps us build a national picture of educational provision so that we can focus support more effectively, monitor the impact of the virus, and ensure children are safe.

The online form can be found here:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-attendance-recording-for-educational-settings>
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The information below has not changed since yesterday.

Department for Education coronavirus helpline

The Department for Education coronavirus 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 as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday), 10am to 4pm (Saturday to Sunday)

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

Updated 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 guidance for schools, the 'school closures guidance', 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 it:

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