

Staff Headlines

4th February 2021

Reminder Northern Ireland Executive Restrictions

The current restrictions are in place until 5th March 2021. They will be reviewed on 18th February 2021. The restrictions apply to everyone in Northern Ireland.

COVID-19 NI EXECUTIVE RESTRICTIONS AND GUIDELINES - JANUARY 2021					
The following measures will be in place until 5 March 2021 (reviewed on 18 February 2021)					
Stay at home, protect the health service and save lives	Work from home unless unable to do so	Only leave your home for essential reasons	No mixing of households in private dwellings or gardens	One bubble can be formed with one other household	No overnight stays away from your home
Outdoor gatherings limited to 6 people from a maximum of 2 households	Outdoor exercise with own household or with one person from another household	Exercise in your local area	Minimise the time you spend outside your home	Pre-school, primary and post primary schools to provide remote learning. Special schools open	Childcare open
All tourism accommodation closed	All hospitality closed	Takeaway services open until 11pm	Off sales closed at 8pm	Non-essential retail closed. Click and collect not permitted	Outdoor and indoor visitor attractions closed
Public parks and outdoor play areas open	Gyms, swimming pools, indoor sport and exercise facilities closed	Close contact services closed	Places of worship online services	Weddings and civil partnerships limited to 25 people. Receptions not allowed	Funerals limited to 25 people

Exemptions may apply. Get up-to-date advice at: nidirect.gov.uk/coronavirus

WE ALL MUST DO IT TO GET THROUGH IT

Proposals outlined for vaccination of Staff in Special Schools

Staff working in special schools who are supporting children with the most complex needs are to be offered the COVID-19 vaccine. This follows an agreement by the Ministers for Health and Education.

Staff who are eligible are those who undertake regular healthcare duties with multiple children and young people, all of which mean they work in close proximity for prolonged periods of time providing a range of interventions, including personal and intimate care and invasive procedures.

Officials in the Department of Education will work with the Department of Health to identify the groups of staff who work in special educational settings and fulfil the necessary criteria and offer them the vaccination.

You can read more on the Department of Education website [here](#).

PROPOSALS FOR VACCINATION OF STAFF IN SPECIAL SCHOOLS

Applications for COVID-19 Residential Outdoor Education Centre Relief Fund closes 5th February 2021

At the start of the year the Education Authority (EA) announced that funding of £1 million had been secured to provide much needed support to Outdoor Education Centres.

Outdoor Education Centres provide vital educational and social opportunities for children and young people throughout Northern Ireland, but have had to significantly reduce their services as a direct result of the restrictions imposed due to the ongoing pandemic.

The COVID-19 Residential Outdoor Education Centre Relief Fund will be administered by the EA Youth Service and has been open for applications from 22nd January 2021. For more information on eligibility and how to apply see below. Funding has been provided as part of the Executive's COVID-19 Relief Fund.

**Closing date for applications
4.00pm on 5th February 2021**

**[Link to Guidance for Applicants](#)
[Link to Apply Now](#)**

Reminder - Annual Leave

The health and wellbeing of all our staff is of paramount importance. As we continue to navigate the pandemic, it is important that staff continue to avail of annual leave as normal. As we approach the school half term break, staff are encouraged to use this time as an opportunity to take a well-earned break away from work to rest and re-energise.

Introducing Read&Write...

Helping students reach their full potential

EA recently purchased an 18 month license of Read&Write software, so that it is freely available to all pupils, classroom assistants and teachers in Northern Ireland, as well as to all EA staff.

Read&Write is a big confidence booster for anyone who needs a little support with their reading and writing, at school or in the workplace. Its friendly literacy features help English Language Learners, as well as people with learning difficulties or requiring dyslexia tools. It is currently used by over thirty million users (of all ages) worldwide. It can be used by everyone to make their documents more accessible.

What is Read&Write?

Read&Write is a literacy support toolbar, proven to improve students' reading and writing. With features to support a diverse range of learners in class, at home, during revision and in exams. Working seamlessly with virtually any kind of educational content - such as websites, Microsoft Word files, PDFs and Google Docs - Read&Write helps to ensure that every student can access content and build their confidence, understanding and engagement in learning.

Every Student can benefit from Read&Write, but, it's particularly beneficial to those who:

- would like to be more independent learners
- have English as a second language
- use a human or digital reader in exams
- have additional learning needs, for example dyslexia

For further information visit [here](#), where you will find all the relevant information on how to download the software, training and resources available for all contexts, and the 'Get in touch' section for anyone requiring further support.



Safer Internet Day 2021



Safer Internet Day 2021 will be celebrated in the UK on Tuesday 9th February. This year's theme is: 'An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world'. Safer Internet Day will be celebrated globally with the slogan: Together for a better internet.

The campaign, led by UK Safer Internet Centre, focuses on how we can decide what to trust online, supporting young people to question, challenge and change the online world for the better. It will explore how influence, persuasion and manipulation can impact young people's decisions, opinions and what they share online.

Remote learning resources are now live and free to download for all UK schools and educational settings from the UK Safer Internet Centre [website here](#). With video assemblies and adaptations to make the resources suitable for home learning, our education resources cover the issue of reliability online for 3-18 year olds.

Thank you to everyone who is taking part - together we can achieve a huge impact and inspire young people to help make the internet a great and safe place.

Mental Health Charter

EA have signed up to the Northern Ireland Mental Health Charter. The Charter, which is a joint project between the Equality Commission, Action Mental Health, Change Your Mind, Disability Action, the Mental Health Foundation, MindWise and Inspire, sets out five commitments that the EA will work to deliver.

Charter commitments include creating an open and inclusive workplace culture; promoting equality of opportunity and challenging discrimination in the workplace; ensuring equality of opportunity in recruitment and selection; identifying and providing sources of information and support; and adopting Every Customer Counts recommendations.

As one of Northern Ireland's largest employers EA has a responsibility to create an environment which promotes the mental health and wellbeing of its staff.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK



This week is Children's Mental Health Week, and runs from 1st - 7th February 2021. This year's theme is Express Yourself.

Expressing yourself is about finding ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas, through creativity. This could be through art, music, writing and poetry, dance and drama, photography and film, and doing activities that make you feel good. You can find more information [here](#).

We want to hear from you

If you have any news or stories that you would like to be considered for inclusion in an upcoming edition of Staff Headlines, please email comms@eani.org.uk

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