



To All Headteachers

**Children, Young People and Education**

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Dear Colleagues

Last week saw the wider opening of schools to all children, the feedback received from school leaders, parents and the broader community is that the wider opening was very successful. I have no doubt that this success is a reflection of the hard work you and your colleagues put into planning for the return, whilst also managing remote education and provision for children of critical workers and vulnerable in school.

Whilst attendance levels were high by the end of last week, there will be some pupils and families who hold anxiety about the return to school. The anxiety held is understandable; the experience of the Autumn Term showed that many attendance issues related to anxiety about Covid could be resolved through discussions between school, pupil and parents about the measures in place in school to reduce risk and the range of support available from school and other organisations.

Ultimately, good school attendance remains a priority and where resolution cannot be gained through initial discussion and the non-attendance relates to Covid anxiety we would highlight that a Pathway 5 Request for Advice and Consultation relating to an individual pupil may be more appropriate than a request for statutory intervention in this initial period of wider opening. Access to the Inclusion and Attendance Service Front Door can be found [here](#).

**School Visitors**

A number of schools have requested advice relating to visitors to school premises.

Under the Operational Guidance, visitors to schools are acceptable where required. This may include visitors to support the operation of the school, such as temporary supply staff, or visitors to support the health, wellbeing and safety of individual pupils, such as therapists or social workers.

Schools should ensure site guidance on physical distancing and hygiene is explained to visitors on or before arrival. Where visits can happen safely outside of school hours, they should; although this is unlikely to be appropriate for visitors supporting individual children. A record should be kept of all visitors with sufficient detail to support rapid contact tracing if required by NHS Test and Trace.

Many visitors, particularly those in health and social care professions will already have access to routine asymptomatic testing through their employer based on risk assessment, it is not necessary for visitors to be required to undertake LFD testing.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine McInnes".

Christine McInnes  
**Director of Education**