



NAHT Cymru
9 Columbus Walk
Brigantine Place
Cardiff
CF10 4BY

Tuesday March 24 2020

RE Covid-19 outbreak – schools’ response to pandemic

Dear Minister,

Since your announcement on Wednesday to close schools to statutory education, NAHT Cymru has worked with you and your officials to ensure our school leaders respond to your call to repurpose schools.

You have continued to publicly praise their leadership and their actions in supporting the children of key workers during this time of national crisis, and we are grateful for your continued support.

School leaders in Wales are still left with some very serious questions unanswered and I urge you to provide guidance on the following:

- Staff/pupil ratios for primary and secondary schools
- Safe pupil numbers, i.e. how many children can attend each provision without compromising social distancing guidance
- Arrangements for staff not required to attend work - are staff with children under the age of five /vulnerable children not required to attend etc
- Issuing of confirmation letters to staff fulfilling key-worker roles to avoid any confusion
- Prioritising schools in terms of supplies, e.g. cleaning products, hand gel
- PPE and hygiene regime to mitigate against the spread of infection, i.e. protocol for entering and exiting the school, clothes to wear etc
- Arrangements for term-time only staff if they are being asked to work weekends and school holidays
- Expectations on continued learning – how to manage staff who are providing work for at-home learning and working at a repurposed school
- Expectations of opening hours, i.e. some LAs are asking for volunteers to work weekends; details on how that will be managed in terms of responsibilities and pay
- Supply agencies who are cutting contracts for teachers and support staff
- LA recording of self-isolation against sickness records
- Special schools – are they to remain open? Northern Ireland has closed all special schools this week in order to risk assess the situation.

School leaders have answered your call to action during this time of uncertainty, they have worked tirelessly to arrange childcare provisions for their communities with very little notice.

Last night's announcement of tighter measures to help stop the spread of the virus has added to the anxiety of our members, making it more important than ever that they are provided with some guidance on how to operate safely and responsibly during these most challenging of circumstances.

Yours sincerely

Laura Doel
Director
NAHT Cymru