

Weekly Update to Schools - Essential Statutory and Other Useful Documents for Schools – 20th March 2020

Whilst Somerset County Council makes every effort to ensure accuracy of content, it cannot accept liability for claim, loss or damage howsoever arising from the reliance on or use of this information.

This document is available upon request in larger print sizes, Braille and other languages. Please use the contact details above for further information.

Below are some of the documents uploaded to Somerset iPost this week that may be required by, or of interest to, schools.

Document ID numbers are no longer included in this update. The 'Title' is hyperlinked to the News item/document. If the link does not work, try the following alternatives:

- Download the [PDF version](#) of the Weekly Update and click on the title link from there.
- Search for keywords in the title.
- Right-click on the link > Copy Shortcut > paste into your browser bar > Go.

If the document does not download, click [here](#) for advice.

If you still have difficulties accessing the document please follow up with the 'contact' for that item.

UPDATE Coronavirus – impact on schools

Across Somerset, Head Teachers and staff will continue working extremely hard to keep schools open or provide alternative educational provision during these unprecedented times.

The government's latest announcement means that schools will be closed to a significant number of pupils. However, vulnerable children (those with EHCPs and/or social workers) will be able to continue attending school, along with children of critical workers, as part of the country's ongoing response to the virus.

You can find a letter from Julian Wooster – Director of Children's Services [here](#).

Or you can click [here](#) for more guidance for parents.

Title: [Somerset Leadership Conference *postponed*](#)

Audience: All Schools

Summary: Due to the unforeseeable circumstances regarding COVID-19 outbreak, we have unfortunately decided to postpone the Somerset Leadership Conference on Friday 1st May at Dillington House.

Contact: SCIL@somerset.gov.uk or 0300 123 1967

Access: Public

Title: [Inclusion Send Support Services](#)

Audience: All Schools

Summary: As from the 1st April 2020, the email address quoted within the drop-down menus of the 'Early Help Assessment (EHA) Request Form' used for requests into the Inclusion SEND Advisory Services, will be changing. The new email address will be:

InclusionSENRequests@somerset.gov.uk.

Contact: InclusionSENRequests@somerset.gov.uk

Access: Public

Title: [Work Experience Placements](#)

Audience: All Schools

Summary: We know that a number of schools are due to undertake Work Experience placements in the coming weeks and months. In terms of guidance we ask schools to continue to follow the most current public health and government guidance as it is released and adapt accordingly: [COVID-19: guidance for educational settings](#).

Contact: Dr Julie Young at JAYoung@somerset.gov.uk

Access: Public

Title: [Curriculum Visions: offering FREE access to webcasts/book and video reads](#)

Audience: All Schools

Summary: Curriculum Visions are offering **FREE** access for all schools to webcasts/book and video reads while the coronavirus outbreak lasts. Curriculum Visions are creating webcasts that is designed to allow a complete coverage of core curriculum topics by distance learning for as long as it takes.

Contact: www.curriculumvisions.com or 01491 684 028.

Access: Public

Title: [SSE Website – Purchasing Support Services for Education for 2020/21](#)

Audience: All Schools

Summary: The 2020/21 ordering window is now available online so schools and academies are able to order a wide variety of education support services via the SSE website.

Contact: SSE@somerset.gov.uk or 0300 123 7365

Access: SSE Website (you will need to login to purchase)

Title: [Children’s Parliament – CANCELLED](#)

Audience: All Schools

Summary: It is with great sadness that the SAPH Executive Body of Headteachers, alongside organisers, have today decided to cancel this year’s Children’s Parliament event due to take place on Tuesday 31st March. This is due to the challenge we are all facing around COVID-19.

Contact: SAPH@somerset.gov.uk or 01823 356258

Access: Public

Title: [Message to all Somerset Headteachers from Headteacher Support Service](#)

Audience: All Schools

Summary: The Headteacher Support Service will continue to be available to support you through this period of uncertainty. We are happy to visit on or off school site, we will skype or phone if you prefer.

Contact: Kerry Chappell at kchappell@somerset.gov.uk or 07825904291 and Gary-Saul Paterson at GSaulPaterson@somerset.gov.uk or 07825904292.

Access: Public

Title: [Resources for talking to children about COVID-19](#)

Audience: All Schools

Summary: Please see information and resources to help talk to children about COVID-19.

Contact: InclusionSENsupportservices@somerset.gov.uk

Access: Public

Title: [The Somerset Governors Safeguarding 175/157 Audit is now live](#)

Audience: All Schools

Summary: The Somerset Governors Safeguarding 175/157 Audit 2019/20 is now live. This is a reminder to all schools and colleges who have not completed their audit. The audit deadline has been extended to 24th April 2020.

Contact: Jane Weatherill at JWeatherill@somerset.gov.uk

Access: Public

Title: [Sign up to the Schools & Colleges newsletter](#)

Audience: All Schools

Summary: Next Steps South West offers teachers and school staff to receive up-to-date information on higher education and opportunities for students in the region. To sign up to the Schools & Colleges newsletter head to <https://nextstepssw.ac.uk/newsletter-signup/>.

Contact: <https://nextstepssw.ac.uk/newsletter-signup/>

Access: Public

Title: [COVID-19 Preparation for Schools: Implementing a home learning strategy](#)

Audience: All Schools

Summary: SSE eLIM Ed Tech team offer guidance for schools who are planning for potential closures and disruption to children's learning. Schools will need to give families a first point of contact, which is likely to be your school website.

Contact: www.somersetelim.org

Access: Public

Title: [CLPE offering free teaching resources to support home learning](#)

Audience: All Schools

Summary: In light of the current uncertainty surrounding the outbreak of COVID-19 in the UK, and in line with current government guidance we have made the pragmatic decision to postpone all training and events taking place in March and April at our Centre in London and around the country. We are also offering extra free teaching resources to support home learning.

Contact: info@clpe.org.uk

Access: Public

Title: [COVID-19 FAQs for Schools](#)

Audience: All Schools

Summary: We have created a list of COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions, please see the link. This should answer some of the queries you may have.

Contact: sse@somerset.gov.uk

Access: Public

Title: [COVID-19 Preparation for Schools: Data Protection Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Audience: All Schools

Summary: The SSE eLIM Data Protection Officer service has produced guidance and FAQs for schools planning for potential closures.

Contact: <http://bit.ly/elimdpsfaqs>

Access: Public

Title: [Message to all Somerset Headteachers from Headteacher Support Service](#)

Audience: All Schools

Summary: Please see message from the Headteacher Support Service.

Contact: Kerry Chappell - kchappell@somerset.gov.uk or 07825904291

Gary Saul-Paterson - GSaulPaterson@somerset.gov.uk or 07825904292

Access: Public

Title: [HR / PAYROLL FAQs FOR COVID-19](#)

Audience: All Schools

Summary: Latest HR/Payroll information for Somerset Schools.

Contact: sse@somerset.gov.uk

Access: Public

Title: [Somerset SCITT trainees available for help](#)

Audience: All Schools

Summary: Somerset SCITT partnership schools who have been supporting our trainees during their second placement. We urge schools to include Somerset SCITT trainees in any online teaching, planning and marking.

Contact: SCIL@somerset.gov.uk

Access: Public

Title: [School Nursing services remains available for support](#)

Audience: All Schools

Summary: Service for Public Health Nursing has reported that the School Nursing services remains available for support and can be contacted as normal.

Contact: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/what-is-a-school-nurse/#Contact-the-team>

Access: Public

Title: [The School Library Service is closed to visitors until further notice.](#)

Audience: All Schools

Summary: Due to school closures we are unable to collect resources at the end of term. Please can schools keep hold of resources and we will be in touch about collections and the delivery of new resources once the Covid-19 emergency has settled.

Contact: sse@somerset.gov.uk

Access: Public

Title: [SIMS 2020 Spring Upgrade Notification](#)

Audience: All Schools

Summary: The Spring 2020 upgrade was made available by Capita on Friday 13th March and original plans were to release this to supported schools over several nights during w/c 23/03/2020. Due to the situation with COVID-19 and schools closing this will now not happen until a date in the future, yet to be determined.

Contact: Tel: 01823 355090 Email: icthelpdesk@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Access: Public

Title: [Translation and Interpretation](#)

Audience: All Schools

Summary: We have contacted our translation and interpretation providers and all are continuing to provide the full range of services (face to face, telephone and text translation) other than Diversity Voice (who are not currently providing any face to face interpretation).

Contact: ema-tes@somerset.gov.uk

Access: Public

Blue sheet and Teaching Vacancies

The Blue sheets and Teaching bulletin are distributed on a Friday each week. The deadlines for these bulletins are – Monday at 12 noon for the Blue sheets and Thursday at 11am for the Teaching bulletin. Adverts received after these times will not be included in that week's bulletin. The Somerset Teaching Vacancy and Blue Sheet Vacancy Bulletins can now be found on the SSE website, please see [here](#).