



Education Authority - Employee Update

19th June 2020

Corporate Staff Update

EA Restart - the way forward

We plan to commence our restart and move to step 1 of our plan this month, subject to consultation. This means that some corporate staff will begin to return to the main office buildings. EA services will return to normal operations using a phased approach, prioritised by business criticality, when it is safe to do so, following guidance from the Public Health Agency and Northern Ireland Executive.

How will staff be notified of a return to main offices?

Senior management and line managers will be notified by the Business Continuity Planning (BCP) Team in due course if and when their team/s have been identified to return to offices. You are not required to do anything until your line manager makes contact with you to inform you of next steps. If you are working remotely from home, you should continue to do so.

What measures have been put in place to support a safe return to main offices?

The health and safety of staff is our priority and we have been working hard behind the scenes to introduce safe working practises across all of our sites to support the safe and phased return of staff to our offices. We will be providing more information about measures we have put in place to keep you safe in future updates.

Remember to check our EA website regularly for important staff updates
www.eani.org.uk/staff

School Staff Update

Education Restart Programme

The Minister of Education, Peter Weir, yesterday set out plans for the reopening of schools. See below a summary of Minister's announcement:

New School Day

- School staff to return from 17 August
- Years 7, 12 and 14 and vulnerable children in all year groups will return on 24 August
- Remaining years will return on 1 September
- Primary School children will in the main be able to return to full time education
- 1 metre social distancing for children and young people
- 2 metre social distancing applies for teachers and other school based staff
- Each class viewed as a 'protective bubble' (up to and including year 10)

Summer Provision

- Programme of targeted activity over the summer to support children and young people
- EA's Eat Well Live Well programme will be extended to cover July and August
- Minister is bidding for an additional £12million from the Executive's Covid-19 fund to provide a summer food scheme for those children who normally receive free school meals during term time
- A Youth Sector Reference Group will be established to inform the most effective summer youth work interventions. Diversionary activities will be provided through a limited version of the planned interventions programme. There will be targeted outreach for youth at risk in collaboration with PSNI
- Limited resumption of summer youth programmes with key worker children being prioritised aged 9-13
- EA will signpost keyworkers to available summer provision and youth workers will now be listed as key workers
- DE will support schools who wish to voluntarily run a summer school for years 5, 6 & 7

20/21 Academic Year

- The 'Engage Programme' will target literacy and numeracy support, mental health interventions and widening the nurture support approach

Childcare Recovery Strategy

- From the 1 July schools will not be expected to remain open for children of key workers and vulnerable children
- No plans to limit childcare capacity, except for childminders (limited to 4 families)

Shielding

- Shielding will pause at the end of July

We continue to work with Department of Education (DE) and sectoral partners on the Education Restart Programme. Further guidance has today been issued by DE. You can find a copy of the guidance [here](#)

Future updates

We will continue to provide regular updates on our plans. If you have any enquiries in the meantime please email EA_BCP@eani.org.uk

Stay safe, take care of yourself and each other