

Ealing Learning Partnership

Ealing Learning Partnership
Perceval House 2 n/e
14-16 Uxbridge Road
Ealing
W5 2HL

www.egfl.org.uk/elp
elp@ealing.gov.uk

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Dear colleagues,

Re: ELP communications to schools

Thank you again for your ongoing commitment and support in keeping schools open for our key worker children and for doing everything in your power to keep in touch with our more vulnerable children and their families.

We know that the pressures on these children are likely to increase in the coming weeks and therefore we want to work with you to develop consistent strategies for maintaining strong relationships and support. In addition to this request, the work you are doing to support home learning for all children and young people is incredible given the short notice and the significant variations in children's circumstances. We are encouraging schools to work on the same principles for remaining open over the May bank holiday and half-term week, utilising staff rotas and the staff reserve pool as appropriate.

I know that you will now be focused on what might be expected of schools in the coming months and the inherent complexities of a partial or staggered re-opening at a time when the future of Covid 19 and social distancing requirements are so uncertain. It does seem clear that, whether schools are asked to re-open this term or in September, that a staged-approach and prioritisation for particular year groups and pupil groups seems likely.

The Schools Consultative Group and ELP Board have now merged to act as the **Covid 19 Schools Board**. This group has met five times and will continue to meet every other Friday until further notice. The Covid 19 Schools' Board is chaired by Judith Finlay, Executive Director Children, Adults and Public Health. Its focus is:

- 1. Addressing the immediate needs of schools and children/young people**
- 2. Developing an area-wide approach and support for the phased re-opening of schools**
- 3. Longer term recovery activity needed to re-build resilience and capacity**

The Covid 19 Schools Board will work through the established ELP structures to respond to policy and develop practical guidance and support for schools both through the summer term and into the next academic year. Council officers receive policy announcements at the same time as schools.

We will do all we can to provide you with timely guidance and practical assistance in the context of this huge challenge. Lead officers will take responsibility for generating guidance and practical support for schools, working with named heads to turn this around as quickly as possible.

The plan for Covid 19 Schools' Board, membership and linked sub-groups is attached here and accessible on EGfL at www.egfl.org.uk/coronavirus#recovery

To aid navigation of the **EGfL Covid 19 pages** the information has now been organised as **key themes** under alphabetical headings. The page should also include any information sent out in Gatekeeping related to Covid 19. We will also signpost all local practical guidance directly using the ELP email address elp@ealing.gov.uk. Please can I ask that you report any problems with navigation through your representative head on the Covid 19 Schools' Board so that we can address these?

Later this week, you will receive the **Spring term ELP Newsletter**. I appreciate that ELP news may not be at the front of your mind but do take a look at this term's planned support for schools and share with governors/key staff as appropriate.

The practical guidance and support coming to you this week and early next week, accessible on EGfL will include:

- Data collection and processing of **IT requests** for schools – Gary Redhead
- Overview of **home learning approaches and support** – Nigel Cook
- Guidance on **primary phase end of year reports** – Nigel Cook
- Shared approaches to **secondary online learning and exam grading** – Angela Doherty
- Guidance on **transition from nursery to reception** – Madhu Bhachu/EYFS leads
- Guidance on **transition Year 6 to Year 7 SEND** – Madhu Bhachu
- Approaches for **engaging vulnerable children and young people** – Bridie McDonagh
- Guidance on schools' access to **testing for C19** – Gary Redhead
- Guidance on **school offers** and for **placing children on school rolls** during lockdown – Tamara Quinn

Best wishes,



Julie Lewis
Director Learning, Standards and School Partnerships
Ealing Learning Partnership
020 8825 6473
jlewis@ealing.gov.uk