

**Latest Department for Education (DfE) guidance on the ongoing educational expectations for vulnerable children – issued 5.00pm on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

[Supporting vulnerable children and young people during the coronavirus outbreak](#)

In light of the extraordinary influx of updated guidance from DfE over the weekend, I hope this very brief summary will be useful for Schools, Early Years Settings and Social Care colleagues as we seek to work at pace to digest and accommodate information in this fast-moving current environment.

Vulnerable children are defined as those with a Social Worker or have been assessed as vulnerable by education providers or Local Authorities (including children's social care services), and who are therefore in need of continued education provision.

These children are expected to attend school and settings daily unless it has been agreed by their Social Worker that they may remain at home.

If vulnerable children expected to attend school or setting do not attend, DfE expects schools and settings to contact the parents directly. The Social Worker should be notified of non-attendance too. Children identified as vulnerable without an allocated Social Worker who do not attend should be contacted by school or setting and any other lead professional notified.

This contact should explore underlying reasons for non-attendance with reference to Public Health guidance if families are anxious about virus related issues. Family emergency contact details should be checked and attempts to engage with the family made by letter, phone and home visit.

Designated Safeguarding Leads in schools should ensure their list of vulnerable children is regularly reviewed and updated and shared with the Local Authority. The Local Authority should prioritise the most vulnerable families for home visits.

Should schools and settings where vulnerable children are on roll need to close, the Local Authority should broker a place at an alternative school or setting (with transport as required).

Children with Education, Health & Care Plans should be risk assessed for attendance by SENCOs and Local Authority SEN Officers to determine whether attendance is required or not.

To support this work, in Oxfordshire all schools are requested to submit by lunchtime the daily attendance of all children assessed as vulnerable to [Attendance@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Attendance@oxfordshire.gov.uk). This is for children assessed as vulnerable using the definition above, not those with an EHCP (unless they have a Social Worker too). Please use this email address for any further queries you may have.