

Noticeboard

Children and Young Peoples Services

In this week's edition

This electronic communications bulletin is
available on the North Somerset Website at
www.n-somerset.gov.uk/noticeboard

Vacancy Bulletins

The [Schools Vacancies Bulletin](#) for this week will be available on the website from
Wednesday 11 January 2012.

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New Ofsted Inspection Framework

The **final** new Ofsted Inspection Framework documentation for all schools is on the [January 2012](#) web page. Would schools please ensure all previous draft copies are deleted and replaced by these documents. The new Inspection Framework is implemented from January 2012 and there are changes which will need to be noted, for example, statements which said '*inspectors should*' have now become '*inspectors must*'.

National Curriculum Review

Michael Gove has announced that the revised National Curriculum will be implemented from 2014 and not partially from 2013 as first indicated. Click [here](#) for the press release.

KS2 assessment arrangements and phonics screening check

The Standards and Testing Agency have recently provided further information on the KS2 assessment arrangements and Phonics Screening check.

Applying for access arrangements for the KS2 SATs

Schools can apply online for additional time, early opening and compensatory marks via the NCA Tools website from Monday 9 January 2012 until 27 February 2012. A small number of children may require arrangements to enable them to access the tests. Access arrangements are adjustments that schools must consider prior to the tests and should be based primarily on normal classroom practice for children with particular needs.

Full details on criteria for applying are available in section 5 of the *Key Stage 2 Assessment and reporting arrangements* and on the Department for Education [website](#).

Below is a summary of changes that have been introduced for the 2012 test cycle:

- To comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, we cannot accept emails about access arrangements. The Access arrangements section of NCA tools will include a secure communication system which can be used instead of email. However, if schools have any queries regarding access arrangements they can contact the National Curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013.
- A list of eligibility tests for additional time will not be provided for this cycle. If schools are using eligibility tests, they should make sure they are:
 - up to date;
 - fully standardised;
 - age appropriate; and
 - have a ceiling level equivalent to, or above, the chronological age of the child.

Schools should not use past Key Stage 2 National Curriculum tests, as these have not been designed for this purpose.

- Reports required for section B2 of the additional time criteria no longer need to have been written within in the previous school year. The name and qualification of the professional who has written the report must be included in the application.

Year 1 phonics screening check update

Schools can now access additional information on the structure and content of the phonics screening check through the sample materials on the Department's [website](#). The sample material contains:

- a set of practice words that can be used to familiarise children with the way in which words will be presented in the check, including pseudo words illustrated with pictures of imaginary creatures; and
- a sample list of 40 words in the form of a mark sheet. Go to [Year 1 phonics screening check sample material](#).

The phonics screening check must be administered during the week commencing 18 June 2012. If you have any questions about the Year 1 phonics screening check please visit the DfE [website](#) or contact the National Curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013.

Secondary Maths Teacher Training Day

Through our partnership with Independent Thinking, we are pleased to announce a training day for secondary mathematics teachers led by Ian Taylor on 7 February at Priory Community School – an Academy Trust. Booking is now available on [CPD Online](#). Lunch and refreshments are included in the cost of £125 per delegate. A reminder that, if you wish to fund a place with LE credits (2 plus £25), this must be indicated when booking.

Autistic Spectrum Disorder Immersion Day

The Learning Exchange and Bryanston Square are jointly holding an Immersion Day on Friday 24 February 2012, focusing on local opportunities for those with Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

The day will be a structured journey of thought-provoking visits to a variety of different organisations, which would normally be outside of participants' usual frame of reference, in order to share thinking and ideas and to look at new ways of doing things.

Please see the flier on the [January 2012](#) web page for further details. Places are limited so book early on [CPD Online](#).

Consultations:

Details	Open until
Consultation on a Revised Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) (Learning and Development Requirements) (Amendment) Order 2012	19 January

A consultation on revised statutory guidance and regulations for exclusions from schools and pupil referral units in England	17 February
Revised Premises Regulations	26 January
Please click here for more information	

[Paul Jacobs](#), Assistant Director, Learning & Achievement

Consultation on Proposed Fair Access Protocol

As you are probably aware, Local Authorities are required to have a Fair Access Protocol. They are intended to help children who have not found a school place through the usual admissions process to be quickly placed in a school and also to try to ensure schools do not take a disproportionate number of complex placements.

The current protocol has been updated and is being consulted upon. You are invited to give us your views on the [proposed new protocol](#) by **7 March 2012**. A final protocol would then be determined which it is intended would take effect from 16 April 2012.

[Terri Knowlton](#), School Admissions and Transport Manager

Consultation on Changes to Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR)

The Department for Education has published its informal consultation on the CFR regulations and codes and the documents can be viewed via this [link](#). The consultation will run until **27 January 2012**.

Please email your responses to CFR.Benchmarking@education.gsi.gov.uk or by post to Fola Agwu, Department for Education, Funding Policy and Efficiency Team, Level 4, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT.

[Pippa Cooke](#), Schools Finance Support Officer

Ofsted Inspections and Health and Safety

Recently the Health and Safety Team has been made aware of some concerns from schools where Ofsted inspectors have raised health and safety concerns. This is a subject that has been raised and discussed at the Safety Advisors Panel Education Sub Group. This is a regional group of local authority health and safety advisors that meet and discuss health and safety matters of concern to schools in the South West.

The group has discussed examples where Ofsted Inspectors have raised issues under safeguarding which conflicts with health and safety advice or legislation. The group therefore contacted Ofsted for clarification on their expectations in respect of its Inspectors regarding health and safety.

The [letter](#) from the Safety Advisors Panel Education Sub Group outlines the response from Ofsted. This indicates that Ofsted inspectors should not routinely be raising specific issues in relation to health and safety, but if they have concerns they should ask the school to work with its employer's competent health and safety advisor to resolve the issues.

Therefore, I would ask that if schools have concerns about Inspectors' comments regarding health and safety issues they contact the North Somerset Council Corporate and Schools Health and Safety Team to discuss. There is also an Ofsted Helpline manned by experienced HMIs where schools can raise live issues during an inspection (telephone 0300 1234666).

For further information please contact the Corporate & Schools Health and Safety Team.

[Nicola Watkins](#), Senior Health and Safety Advisor

Healthy Living Programme for North Somerset Families

MEND - Mind, Exercise, Nutrition....Do it! is a programme that has been developed in partnership with child health experts at Great Ormond Street Hospital and has helped over 20,000 families across the country have fun while they get fitter and healthier.

The ten-week MEND (Mind, Exercise, Nutrition.....Do it!) programme consists of two-hourly after-school sessions twice a week designed to boost confidence and self-esteem turning conflict around food into family fun. It is aimed at children aged 7-13 who attend with their parents.

Independent research conducted by the University College London's Institute of Child Health found that children who attended the MEND programme experienced long-term health benefits, including weight loss and improvements in fitness and self-esteem. The programme helps children to understand what eating less looks like and how to choose the best things for them to eat.

Three new courses are due to start in the new year across North Somerset (Weston, Banwell and Backwell) and families who take part don't pay a penny. Please can you include information on the MEND programme in your news letters and on your websites. More details are contained in the press release on the [January 2012](#) web page which outlines details of the programme and provides contact details.

[Helen Caldwell](#), Strategic Commissioning Officer (Equality, Access and Achievement)

Kellogg's Active Living Fund

The fund will give small grants to fund projects and activities that directly lead to people taking part in sustained physical activity. The aim of the fund is to help remove the "barriers" which stop people being active.

While schools and other organisations clearly play a valuable role in promoting the benefits of exercise, the best role models for a child are their immediate family. Therefore the Fund is very keen to fund activities that enable adults and children to exercise together.

Who can apply?

Applications can be considered for projects engaging with young people up to 25 years of age. However, priority will be given to applications requesting support for family units – children and adults undertaking physical activity together. They are particularly looking for projects that are innovative in their approach to involve children or young people and their families.

(Larger, more sophisticated organisations that have a track record of attracting funding, particularly when such groups have a turnover of more than £50,000 a year, are not prioritised for this Fund).

Please click on the [link](#) for more information.

[Shane German](#), North Somerset SSP Manager

Early Years Foundation Stage Small Schools Cluster

There has been a request from several Foundation Stage teachers and some headteachers to set up a Foundation Stage small schools cluster. This cluster is aimed at Foundation Stage teachers who either work in a small school or in a school which is one form entry. There will be three sessions over the course of the academic year. The first session was in November 2011 and focused on planning. The second session will be on **Thursday 26 January 2012 (2:30pm to 4:30pm)** at **Court de Wyck Primary School** and will focus on phonics and guided reading.

Places are limited, so if you would like to attend please email heather.kirkpatrick@n-somerset.gov.uk. If you would like any further details about this cluster please email sarah.mcgahern@n-somerset.gov.uk. If you can attend, please park your car on the front playground of Court de Wyck Primary School.

[Sarah McGahern](#), Early Years Consultant and Moderation Manager