

## Your Child's Education in Blackpool

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) & Information for Parents and Carers

This document covers a range of FAQs relating to the Covid-19 outbreak and children's ongoing education. It is for parents and carers of children and young adults in Blackpool.

Please click on the links below to access a specific section of this guide.

1. [Support with my child's education](#)
2. [Supporting my child's mental health and well-being](#)
3. [Information about financial support for parents during Covid-19](#)

### Support with my child's education

If you need support, information, advice and guidance about your child's education, you will find lots of information in this section. It ranges from government guidance on the phased reopening of schools, to information about GCSE and A-level examination results, as well as resources to help your children continue to learn while at home.

#### **1. Where can I find government advice for parents about the reopening of schools?**

You can find information for parents and carers about the wider opening of nurseries, schools and colleges, transport, attendance, free school meals and remote education by clicking the link below.

<https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Campaigns/Coronavirus/Coronavirus.aspx#Schoolclosures>

[What parents and carers need to know about schools and other education settings during the coronavirus outbreak.](#)

#### **2. Where can I find advice from Blackpool Council on school closures/reopening?**

<https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Campaigns/Coronavirus/Coronavirus.aspx#Schoolclosures>

#### **3. Will it be safe for my child to return to school?**

Schools will be open to all pupils in September. Blackpool Council is working closely with school leaders, the Department for Education, teachers unions and parents and carers to ensure that Blackpool schools reopen in the safest way possible. You will find more information becomes available on this as our risk-assessments and plans are refined. Keep an eye on your child's school's website for further updates.

#### **4. Which year groups is the government prioritising?**

The government is currently prioritising children in the early years, Year 1 and Year 6. There are also plans to have some face-to-face teaching for pupils in Year 10 and in Year 12. You can find further information by clicking the link below.

All year groups will return to school in September.

[Opening schools and educational settings to more pupils from 1 June: guidance for parents and carers](#)

#### **5. Where can I find information on Blackpool's community services, for example library opening, during Covid-19**

Information and resources for children, young people and families in Blackpool.  
<https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Campaigns/Coronavirus/Corona-Kindness.aspx>

#### **6. My child is due to move to primary school, secondary school or college. Will there be any support? What will transition arrangements will be in place?**

Schools and colleges across Blackpool are working hard to establish the most effective ways to support the transition arrangements for children moving into the Reception Year, Year 7 and Year 12. We realise that this is particularly daunting for parents and children who are due to move to a new school or college. While the plans for reopening schools are established and risk-assessments are undertaken to ensure the safety of all pupils and staff, you should contact the school or college that your child is due to attend in the new academic year for details of the offer that they have, or will have in place.

#### **7. How do I help my child to continue learning during the phased reopening of schools?**

There is a wealth of information to help parents and carers educate their children on the internet. Some of the most useful advice can be found below. You will also find information about how your child's school is supporting remote learning by visiting the school's website.

Advice for parents and carers looking after primary school children.

## [Help primary school children continue their education during coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

Some examples of online educational resources for parents and carers to help children to learn at home.

- [Online education resources](#)
- [Resources for subjects](#)
- [BBC Bitesize](#)
- [Children's Commissioner Resources](#)

Advice for parents and carers of early years children who have not yet started school.

## [Help children aged 2 to 4 to learn at home during coronavirus](#)

Helping your child to learn to read. The government has provided a resource called 'Letters and sounds', however, your school may also be able to provide information about the phonics schemes that they are using. Please visit your school's website or contact them.

### **8. Is there is a temporary extension of the eligibility criteria for the free early education entitlement for two-year old entitlement?**

Yes, there is. If you're the parent or carer of a two-year-old and you receive certain benefits you could be eligible to apply for a free early education place.

Temporary additional criteria

The criteria for an eligible 2-year-old place are temporarily extended during coronavirus and currently also include children assessed as being vulnerable and meeting the definition in Section 17 (s17) of the Children Act 1989 and who have No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF).

### **Who can apply?**

Your child might be eligible if you receive any of these benefits:

- Income Support
- income based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- tax credits and have an annual income under £16,190 before tax

- the Working Tax Credit 4-week 'run-on' (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit and has an annual income below £15,400.

Or:

- children of Zambrano carers (derivative right to reside in the UK under European law as the primary carer of a British child or dependent adult)
- children of families with no recourse to public funds (right to remain in the UK on grounds of private and family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights)
- children of is an asylum seeker receiving asylum support from the Home Office under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Or if your child:

- receives Disability Living Allowance
- has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- has a child protection plan
- is looked after by Blackpool
- is a member of a travelling family
- has left care but are not able to return home (are under a special guardianship order, child arrangements order or adoption order)

[Click here to apply online for free early learning and childcare for two-year-olds](#)

## **9. What if my child has special educational needs and/or disabilities?**

Advice for parents and carers looking after children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

[Help children with SEND continue their education during coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

[Changes to the law on education, health and care needs assessments and plans due to coronavirus](#)

## **10. Where can I find information about the cancellation of GCSE, AS and A levels in 2020? How will my child's grade be calculated? When will my child get their results?**

[Guidance for teachers, students, parents and carers: Summer 2020 grades for GCSE, AS and A level, Extended Project Qualification and Advanced Extension Award in maths](#)

Please note that pupils who do not feel their calculated grade reflects their ability will have the opportunity to sit an exam as soon as is reasonably possible after schools and colleges open again.

**11. My child is in Year 10 and was due to sit some examinations. What will happen?**

Having considered the responses to the consultation Ofqual has decided that students of any age and in any year group who had been entered to take exams this summer will be able to receive a calculated grade on the same basis as other students this summer.

[Guidance for teachers, students, parents and carers: Summer 2020 grades for GCSE, AS and A level, Extended Project Qualification and Advanced Extension Award in maths](#)

**12. What support is available for students during the coronavirus outbreak? What if my child is due to go to university?**

The University and Colleges Admission System (UCAS) is developing a personalised system this summer to support admissions into university from autumn 2020. A range of measures has been announced, including an Enhanced Clearing process. This includes Clearing Plus, which matches students to universities or other opportunities based on their achievements and course interests. If students' calculated grades exceed their predicted grades, it can suggest alternative courses with higher entry requirements.

[Government support package for universities and students](#)

**13. I have heard that some pupils are being issued with laptops or tablets. Is my child eligible for a government issued device?**

Guidance for local authorities, academy trusts and schools on how to get internet access, digital devices and support to provide remote education during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Local authorities can also get support for care leavers, and children and young people with a social worker.

[Get technology support for children and schools during coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

## **Supporting my child's well-being**

If you need support with your child's mental health or well-being, you will find lots of information on the websites below. You will also find links about how to promote the safer use of technology with your child.

**14. What resources are available to support my child's mental health and well-being during coronavirus?**

<https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Campaigns/Coronavirus/Corona-Kindness.aspx>

DfE resources for parents on children's mental health and well-being

[Guidance for parents and carers on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic](#)

NSPCC - Coronavirus (COVID-19) advice and support for parents and carers.

[NSPCC](#)

Childline – help for children's well-being during coronavirus

[Childline](#)

Advice and resources for parents to support children's well-being and education.

[School well-being website](#)

Young people's mental health and well-being during Covid-19

[The Children's Society](#)

Supporting Your Child During the Coronavirus Pandemic

[Young Minds](#)

Gingerbread - Coronavirus Information for Single Parents

[Gingerbread](#)

Bernardo's – information for parents and carers during coronavirus

[Bernardo's](#)

UNICEF – six ways parents can support children through coronavirus

[UNICEF](#)

Headstogether – tackling mental health issues

[Headstogether](#)

UK Safer Intranet Centre – advice for parents to help children to stay safe online

[UK Safer Intranet Centre](#)

Thinkuknow – staying safe online

[Thinkuknow](#)

**15. Where can I get information about free school meals during Covid-19?**

If your child or children are already eligible for Free School Meals and you are enquiring about what alternative arrangements are being made whilst the schools are closed, you MUST contact your child's school for this information. Further information can be found at:

<https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Campaigns/Coronavirus/Corona-Kindness.aspx>

**16. Covid-19 – financial advice and benefits**

Covid-19 (Coronavirus) is putting pressure on people's incomes and quality of life, it's important for you to understand what it means for you if:

- you need urgent financial support
- receive Council Tax reduction for low income
- receive Housing Benefit
- receive Discretionary Housing Payments
- struggle to pay your Council Tax
- rent and need support.

On this page <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Campaigns/Coronavirus/Corona-Kindness.aspx> you can find out about changes to support and benefits from central Government.

For further information about any of these issues, visit Blackpool Council's website: <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Home.aspx>