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## Welcoming Ukrainian refugees to our schools

We understand that there are two schemes in operation to bring Ukrainian refugees to safety in the UK:

The [Ukraine Family Scheme](#), which allows immediate and extended family members of British nationals, people settled in the UK, and certain others resident here, to come to the country with a visa. So far 15,800 visa have been issued under this scheme.

The [Homes For Ukraine](#) Scheme whereby individuals, charities, community groups and businesses can sponsor Ukrainians - offering accommodation for a period of at least 6 months, and being paid a monthly amount of £350.

We are starting to get some initial information through about our potential first arrivals. At this stage we are unsure where refugees will be housed across our area and therefore cannot predict which schools will be asked to take pupils on. The Local Authorities will have a key role in coordinating the support for these families (B&NES seems to have engaged well, we await a response from North Somerset).

We are awaiting further details and specific guidance on finding school places. However, as things stand, we have received nothing to indicate that admissions shouldn't be managed in the normal way.

We understand that the government is also providing additional education funding to support children from families arriving from Ukraine under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme (It has not yet been clarified if this funding will also be made available under the Family Visa Scheme). We have not yet received any confirmation of this funding from the DfE or any details of how this funding will be administered. We understand that funding will be allocated on a per pupil basis for the three phases of education at the following annual rates:

- Early years (ages 2 to 4) - £3,000
- Primary (ages 5 -11) - £6,580
- Secondary (ages 11-18) - £8,755

These tariffs include support for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). In previous schemes (VPRS/UKRS) - schools have been able to draw upon this funding to support learning (e.g. resources, additional PA support, interpreting/translating, staff training).

In the meantime, we are keen to harness the skills of anyone in our staff team, student body or wider community that may be able to help us to support any Ukrainian refugees such as Ukrainian or Russian speakers. Please could we ask you to canvas your community for such skills and to share the response with us. We may be able to offer either voluntary or paid work to anyone able to contribute.

We would also like to set up a task team to plan any central provision for refugees as it may make sense to deliver English as a second Language provision in one location. If there are any heads, leaders or governors who would like to be involved, please let Diane Logan know in the LSP office [dlogan@lsp.org.uk](mailto:dlogan@lsp.org.uk).



## LSP Pay Policy

The LSP Pay Policy has now been updated to include agreed NJC pay scales for support staff (Appendix 7). Please update your records. A copy is available in Folder [here](#) and on LSP Gateway.

## Support Services for Education (SSE) - Purchasing Support Services for Education for 2022/23

Schools are now able to order a wide range of support services for the 2022/23 academic year via the SSE Website using the following link: <http://www.supportservicesforeducation.co.uk/>

Many services offer a lower discounted price if you place your order early. The deadline for accessing these 'early bird prices' is Friday 20th May 2022.

SSE also have a [brochure](#) which will provide you with a generic overview of the types of services available.

Please go ahead and order any additional services that you require. Typically, schools buy services such as the FSM checking services and educational psychology. You do not need to buy school admissions or the admissions appeals services as this is purchased by the Trust.

## White and Green papers

The Confederation of School Trusts has produced a quick [summary of the Schools White Paper](#) which sets out the proposals that are new. They have also summarised some of the key points from the Green Paper [Special Education Needs and Disabilities \(SEND\) Review](#) issued today.

- A single national model: A proposed move to a single, unified assessment system underpinned by the same processes and assessment.
- A reformed and integrated role for alternative provision: Including a pilot which is testing the value of embedding multi-disciplinary teams of specialists in alternative provision
- Funding stability for alternative provision
- Funding of SEND and the notional thresholds: The government will consider whether £6,000 per pupil, per year remains the right threshold beyond which schools can expect to draw down additional high needs funding.
- Code of Practice: Commitment to review the Code of Practice.
- Parental engagement, co-production and parent forums
- Health services: Commission analysis to better understand the support that children and young people with SEND need from the health workforce so that there is a clear focus on SEND in health workforce planning. Statutory guidance for the new Integrated Care Boards so that they are clear about how they should discharge their statutory responsibilities for SEND.
- Mental health services: Commitment to work in partnership with the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC), NHS England and NHS Improvement. NHS-funded Mental Health Support Teams which are in the process of being rolled out with an estimated 35% of the school population expected by 2023.
- The local inclusion plan: A local inclusion plan which sets out the provision and services that should be commissioned in line with the proposed new national standards and based on the results of the joint needs assessment.
- Governance and intervention: The DfE, in its role as the regulator, will enter into new funding agreements with local authorities to provide greater accountability and transparency in how high needs budgets are spent to ensure that value for money is being achieved.

## Minimum expectation on length of the school week: information note

The DfE has published an [information note](#) on minimum expectations on the length of the school week, providing details on the expectation that state-funded mainstream schools should deliver a school week of at least 32.5 hours by September 2023.

- From September 2022, all state-funded schools are expected to publish their opening times on their school website.
- From spring 2023, all state-funded schools are expected to submit the length of their school week via the spring collection of the school census.
- By September 2023 at the latest, all state-funded, mainstream schools will be expected to provide a compulsory school week of at least 32.5 hours, but this expectation does not apply to early years and 16-19 education (including school sixth forms) or specialist settings (special schools and alternative provision).

The 32.5 hour minimum includes breaks and lunch times as well as teaching time and any extra-curricular activities that all pupils are expected to attend. It does not include optional before or after school provision.

Any school that needs to change the length of the school day as a result of this will need to go through the appropriate process of consultation. Please could you let us know if you are in this position and if you require any advice or support

## Risk Assessment schedule in the H&S Policy

You will be pleased to know that Trustees approved the amended [standard risk assessment list](#), which reduces the number of standard risk assessments required by schools from 88 to 38.

There are also a further 16 listed as optional, depending on the needs of the school, which cover curriculum and trips/events. Although this will still be a big task for some schools to complete, I hope fewer risk assessment will at least make it somewhat easier.

The revised date for schools to have their risk assessments in place has also been revised to January 2023.

I will let you know once I have established which risk assessments on the attached exist on the Delegated Services website - this should be during April and I will put them in an easier place for you to access.

If you have any queries at all please let either me, or your Hub Estates Manager know.

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## Proposed Health and Safety Committee Agenda

In response to school feedback, this [agenda](#) is suggested for a school Health and Safety Committee to use, or if there is no such committee for inclusion at Local Governing Body meetings under the health and safety agenda item.

## Free School Visits for July - SEE MONSTER

Schools are invited to book students onto the [SEE MONSTER](#) this July.

Please fill out this [form](#) with your preferred dates and times by **31<sup>st</sup> March**. And you can also sign up to be a SEE MONSTER Sustainable School Star and travel by walking, or by taking the bus or train to the venue. Abbie Edbrooke, School's Officer at North Somerset Council's Sustainable Travel and Road Safety Team is ready to work with you to help you make this possible. You can use this part of your trip as evidence towards the schools national DfT [Modeshift Stars Active Award](#) and part of other project work you can do in school. Contact Abbie direct on [abbie.edbrooke@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:abbie.edbrooke@n-somerset.gov.uk)

## Boosting exposure of Support Staff Roles

To raise our exposure of support staff roles, we will be running a quarter-page advert in the North Somerset Times and Weston Mercury featuring up to 5 support staff jobs fortnightly over a 12-week trial period from w/c 2 May.

This trial is being paid for by central funding.

If this trial is successful, we will look to extend it to a year at the start of the next academic year.

Please ensure that you are adding all support staff roles to Eteach as this is where we will be identifying the jobs to be included in the fortnightly advert. If you are finding it particularly difficult to recruit for a certain role, please email Clare Giordmaine [cgiordmaine@lsp.org.uk](mailto:cgiordmaine@lsp.org.uk) who will ensure that the role gets exposure.

Many thanks

## Vacancy: Deputy Headteacher at St Peter's CE Primary

St Peter's CE Primary School is looking to appoint two experienced and exceptional senior leaders to join the leadership team.

**Start date:** September 1st 2022 (Full Time & Permanent)

**Closing date for applications:** Monday 25th April at 9am

**Interviews:** Thursday 5th May

Click [here](#) for further info.

## Vacancy: Executive Deputy Headteacher at High Down Schools

A vacancy has arisen at High Down Schools due to their Executive Deputy leaving to become a Headteacher.

Click [here](#) for further info.

**Start date:** 1st September 2022

**Closing date for applications:** 3rd May 2022 at 9am

**Interviews:** 16th and 17th May 2022

## Temporary office cover - St Mary's CE Primary School

St Mary's CE Primary school are in need of some temporary office cover from next term. The support is graded at JG3 and needed for reception, phone cover and general office duties and ideally would be for 8.30 to 15.30 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Please could we ask you to circulate this amongst your staff and communities and ask them to contact Amy Townsend, Acting Headteacher if they are interested.



## Covid testing arrangements

We understand that people are having difficulty getting access to covid testing and that this could result in children or staff not being able to return to school as soon as they might have done. We are meant to get new guidance from the DfE for 1<sup>st</sup> April but have not yet received it. Until we see what is in the guidance, we recommend that you continue through to the end of term with the current arrangements and risk assessments in place. This will hopefully give us the opportunity to receive the new guidance and digest it to adapt our arrangements from the start of term 5.

# FINANCE UPDATES

## Orovia - updates to Statutory Maternity Rates

In preparation for the SMP changes in April, Orovia will be updated with new SMP rates within the next few days. Once the necessary changes have been made, you will receive the Off-line Salary Notification message appear when you log on to Orovia. You will need to regenerate your current working employee scenario and any scenario you are working on as part of your 2022-23 budget preparation. To do this - please tick Mark as read and then select the option to 'Regenerate salaries'. This then allows you to select those scenarios you want updated to reflect the new SMP rates.

## Devolved Formula Capital Allocations

The DfE has now published provisional Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) allocations for 2022-23 which are for individual schools to spend on capital projects in line with DfE and Trust Policy. The funding will be received in June. Provisional DFC allocations can be found here (School tab, Column F on the worksheet [here](#)).

## Tools for 2022-23 Budget Setting - Utilities and Centrally Procured Contracts

As promised as part of the Budget Assumptions and Guidance for the next 3-year budget, the Central Team has set up a tool to enable you to look up the costs of centrally procured contracts for 2022-23 and to estimate costs for future years. The tool is now available in Foldr [here](#) and will be updated over the coming weeks as costs for contracts are known. The aim will be to keep this up to date and so although the Trust Services Team will continue to send emails about centrally procured contracts, this tool should also be a useful look up for you for setting your budget and for budget monitoring purposes.

Additionally, we have set up a tool to help schools estimate their electricity and gas expenditure for 2022-23 based on your estimated usage. This tool is also now available in Foldr [here](#).

Thank you.

## Governance Update

### FOR THOSE WHO HOLD A GOVERNANCE OFFICE, SLT, SUBJECT OR DEPARTMENT LEADS

**£150 million fund announced to upgrade school WiFi connections** The government's press release with more detail can be read [here](#).

**No new funding for schools in Spring Statement 2022** - Last week, the Chancellor delivered the Spring Statement 2022 but this does not pledge any additional financial help for schools. The only announcement concerning schools is that the apprenticeship levy, which is paid by academies and trusts with a payroll bill of £3 million or more, and LAs on behalf of maintained schools, will be reviewed and finalised in the Autumn.

**KS1 SATs dates announced for 2024** - KS1 SATs were set to become non-statutory from 2023 following the introduction of the Reception baseline assessment; however, the DfE's guidance, '[Primary assessments: future dates](#)', includes provisional dates for KS1 SATs up to 2024. The government's plan remains to make KS1 SATs non-statutory once the baseline assessment is fully established, and the DfE says it will confirm the year which this will take place in due course.

**Ofqual launches consultation on GCSE qualifications in French, German and Spanish** - The exam watchdog has opened a consultation on the proposed regulatory requirements for new GCSE French, German and Spanish qualifications. The consultation can be read [here](#), and online survey responses can be made [here](#).

**Statutory guidance on exclusions during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic set to no longer apply** - The DfE's statutory guidance '[Changes to the school suspension and permanent exclusion process during the coronavirus outbreak](#)' focuses on temporary arrangements regarding the use of remote access technology that apply to suspensions and permanent exclusions occurring between 25 September 2021 and **Thursday 24 March 2022**. It is not yet known if the DfE intends to extend this date or replace the guidance.

**Statutory Policies & Documents** - Update on 15<sup>th</sup> March - section regarding designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children has been removed as this is no longer required.

### NGA Updates

Increasing numbers of pupils are missing school due to COVID-19. Department for Education (DfE) attendance data shows that pupil attendance fell from 92.2% on 3 March to 89.7% on 17 March, reversing the positive trend seen previously. Special schools remain worse affected than mainstream schools. Many schools are also facing high staff absence, with 9.1% of teachers and school leaders absent on 17 March, up from 5.8% on 3 March.

The National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) have reported that many recruitment targets will be missed this year, while retention rates are also falling. Published this week, NFER's annual report state a resurgence in the wider labour market and limited capacity in schools for supporting trainees were among reasons for recruitment issues, while high workload and teacher pay down 7-9% in real terms are impacting on retention.

Children from families with no access to public funds (NRPF) will now have permanent entitlement to free school meals (FSM). The announcement made yesterday by Children and Families Minister, Will Quince, is a victory for Marcus Rashford's child poverty campaign and others who have been calling for the temporary extension of FSM entitlement during the pandemic to be made permanent.