

Briefing on COVID-19, children and education settings

The Government continues to prioritise the wellbeing and long-term futures of our children and young people, and as a result has been clear that childcare and education settings should remain open. This reflects the vital benefits of education for all children and young people, and the fact that these benefits far outweigh the risks of COVID-19 for children and young people.

Keeping settings open remains Government's priority, and as such it has taken other steps across society to manage down virus prevalence by closing other sectors, to allow schools, colleges and universities to remain at full attendance. The new national restrictions, announced on Saturday 31 October, have been introduced for a time-bound period to control the spread of the virus. Reducing infections in the community will reduce the opportunity for transmission to occur in education settings. We are grateful for the extraordinary, continuing efforts of leaders, teachers and staff across early years, schools, and further and higher education, to adapt their settings and maintain good, COVID safe practices, in line with guidance.

DfE regularly reviews data, analysis and advice from a number of different sources including SAGE, Public Health England, the Office for National Statistics, and the Joint Biosecurity Centre, to ensure our policies are guided by the most up-to-date scientific evidence.

Impact of missing education:

The impacts of missing education are severe for children both now and in the future.

Workforce:

There is reassuring evidence that staff working in education are not at higher risk than those working in

Transmission:

There is