

## **Guidance for Providers of Curriculum Support to schools and pupils**

**As at 20 March 2020**

As a key provider of support to schools and pupils funded by the Department for Education, we wanted to keep you updated on the latest coronavirus advice and provide answers to some of the questions that you may have about the delivery of your programme.

### **Latest coronavirus advice – face-to-face activity to be suspended**

You will be aware of the advice issued by the government on Monday 16 March to reduce face-to-face activity, and on Wednesday 18 March regarding school closures. In light of this advice, all face-to-face activity should now cease until further notice. We expect that you will take reasonable steps to rearrange events at a time when schools reopen, and in the meantime explore if it is possible to run activities via videoconferencing or similar technology.

### **Activities to continue**

We advise that you continue with all non face-to-face activities where there is still a demand from schools and pupils, and any development work that does not put additional pressure on schools at this time. We especially ask that you carry on providing online support to schools and pupils (or consider how you could do this) and ensure sufficient capacity for an increased number to be able to access this support. Specific guidance on research activities will follow shortly.

### **Next steps**

We ask that you immediately communicate these changes to all schools and those who currently participate in your programme, and provide them with the required information to access all existing and new (if replacing face-to-face support) online support.

We will keep you updated with the latest advice over the coming period. This will include any planned changes to delivery of your support to pupils, and schools more directly as they continue to teach pupils under these challenging circumstances, and potential compensation for any related cost for you as a provider. We recognise the important role your provision plays for children and young people, and want to emphasise that these measures are being taken across DfE's funded curriculum programmes.

We recommend that you keep up to date with the latest government advice on coronavirus, which is available [here](#).

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### **Questions and Answers**

**Do we have to cancel all face-to-face activity?**

Yes, all face-to-face activity should now cease until further notice. We expect that you will take reasonable steps to rearrange events and investigate if it is possible to run these activities via videoconferencing or similar technology.

**Can we change how we deliver a face-to-face activity?**

Yes, if it's possible to deliver face-to-face activity via videoconferencing or similar technology instead. Where we can continue to support schools and pupils, we would like to see these activities continue.

**Do we have to stop all activity related to this programme?**

No, only face-to-face activity should now cease until further notice. You should continue with all other activity where possible i.e. online support, development of materials etc. so that schools and pupils can continue to access this support during the closure.

You will also want to consider whether it is possible to increase online activity via videoconferencing or similar technology, or re-prioritise scheduled activity and bring forward planned non-face-to-face activity such as the development of resources during this period.

**What should we tell schools about their involvement in our programmes?**

You should immediately advise schools that you will not currently be providing face-to-face support but that you will continue to provide online and other support, and that you will be looking at the feasibility of enhancing such support. We ask that you communicate the changes to delivery to all schools participating in your programme.

**Will the payments from the Department for Education continue as per the delivery schedule?**

We will be in touch with further details about funding agreements and funding conditions in due course.

In the meanwhile, the DfE and the Arts Council will work with you to understand which activities can be continued, based on current safety guidance and changing demands from schools and pupils, what needs to be stopped or delayed, and what new support you can provide to help schools continue to deliver their curriculum to pupils with the restrictions that currently apply.