



Covid-19: School Restart

The Department of Education is currently at the early stages of implementing a Restart Programme, with involvement from various educational bodies and practitioners, including the GBA. One of the aims of the programme is to produce guidance for schools as we move forward.

There are six work streams within this programme:

1. Physical protection
2. Well-being
3. SEN services

4. Standards in learning/ continuity of learning
5. The new school day
6. Funding (relevant to all work streams)

The detail and terminology involved is currently being finalised but you should expect a communication about this in the coming days.

We are in daily contact with various stakeholders so please continue to feed any issues through to us. In particular, **issues or comments in relation to the anticipated opening of schools are encouraged.**

Please [contact us](#) with your feedback.

Cancellation of Examinations - Fees & Charges

The GBA has received queries regarding a potential refund of fees from CCEA. GBA contacted CCEA on the 27th May 2020 and there have been no decisions made on this to date due to the organisation awaiting ministerial advice.

GBA will be formally writing to awarding organisations to press for a prompt response on fees & charges. We will keep members updated on any progress.

Northern Ireland Assembly

In the most recent meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on the COVID 19 Response, Education Minister, Peter Weir, briefed Members on the Department's latest response to the crisis. This was followed by Members' questions. You can watch On Demand coverage of Committee meetings using this [link](#). At the latest [Education Committee](#) meeting, a number of areas were discussed, including the following:

- "Digital deficit"
- Blended learning
- Commissioning of CCEA to work on a modified curriculum for 2020
- Substitute teacher pay
- Department of Education Restart Programme (see article above also)
- Cross-departmental working (Government Departments)
- Definition of a Key Worker

Area Planning

Due to the pandemic, most Area Planning activity continues to be paused until further notice. The Department of Education has specified the following measures:

- Development proposals, submitted on or before 26th March 2020, consultation responses will still be accepted.
- The 2-month statutory period, for receipt of responses, will be extended where appropriate.
- All Area Planning activity prior to the publication of a Development Proposal is suspended, with the exception of proposals relating to special education provision in mainstream and special school settings.
- Development Proposal decisions taken to date are still to be implemented in line with statute.

GBA will continue to engage with stakeholders and monitor the situation.

Teaching & Non-Teaching Vacancies

GBA provides an advertising service for our Member Schools. The service is free of charge. Job vacancies are posted on our website and Twitter page. There is also link to our job listings on the Education Authority

website in the job opportunities section. This has helped to increase the audience for Voluntary Grammar sector vacancies.

If you would like us to host a vacancy for your school, please [contact us](#).



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