



Department of
Education
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24 March 2021

Dear Principal

Statutory Assessment, Pupil Reporting Arrangements and Attendance of Years 12-14

I am writing to provide clarification on a number of issues prior to the conclusion of the Spring Term.

Statutory Assessment

The Department is making legal provision to dis-apply all requirements for schools to carry out Key Stage Assessment during the 2020/21 academic year. This reflects the very limited time to carry out such arrangements following the period of remote learning and is designed to reduce burden and support flexibility for schools as pupils return to the classroom. In regard to Key Stage Assessment for pupils in Year 10, the disapplication also recognises the additional work for post-primary teachers in carrying out GCSE and A Level assessments to inform Centre Determined Grades.

Pupil Reporting Arrangements

The Education (Pupil Reporting) Regulations (NI) 2009 apply to all grant aided schools except nursery schools or pupils in primary schools or special schools who have not attained the lower limit of compulsory school age. The Regulations require an annual report to be provided to parents by 30 June and also set out what the report should contain at each Key Stage. **The Department intends to make legal provision to suspend the requirement to provide an annual report for pupils in Years 12, 13 and 14 in 2020/21. The requirement to provide a report will remain for pupils in all other year groups, however, schools have complete flexibility in regard to the content and format of the report provided to parents.** You will note that the requirement is to provide one written report annually only.

Attendance of Years 12-14 during Summer Term

In normal circumstances, pupils in Years 12-14 would begin study leave in preparation for public examination during the summer term. **It continues to be a matter for schools to decide in their own context, the best approach for these pupils in regard to study leave during the summer term.** Whilst we would encourage schools to teach pupils for as long as possible, we recognise the need for flexibility and also the difficulty of engaging pupils following the completion of their qualifications.

The Department would, however, strongly recommend that pupils in Year 13 continue to be taught in school until the end of the summer term. These pupils are mid A Level course and a significant amount of face-to-face learning has been lost. Again, given the context of two periods of extended school closures, schools may also wish to consider enrichment activities or taster sessions for pupils in Years 12 to 14 during June following the submission of Centre Determined Grades.

I trust this provides clarity on these issues. I wish to thank you for your continued commitment to supporting our children and young people at this time.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzanne Kingon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Suzanne Kingon
Head of School Improvement