

The Coastal Federation

Bacton Primary, Mundesley Infant (SRB) and Junior Schools

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'together aspire, together achieve, together we are stronger...'

30 September 2020

Dear Parents

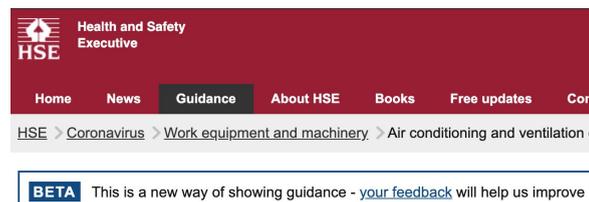
Follow-up re: Colder Classrooms

We have received a number of enquiries regarding the letter issued yesterday to all schools and I wanted to take this chance to unpick some confusion and clarify what was stated in the letter.

The first clarification is the ventilation in schools. I have screen shot two documents; one from the HSE, which is a link from the Governments' 'Safe Opening of Schools' document and the other from Norfolk CC's risk assessment document required to open school's safely - both stipulating that there should be adequate ventilation. If you speak to parents from other schools and colleges you will hear that they are all having to do the same thing. Depending upon the outside temperature, we adjust the windows and doors accordingly. In some classrooms, for example, only the windows remain open. To be clear, I have to ensure that while there should be good ventilation for COVID reasons, I also have a duty of care to the children and staff to keep temperatures at least above 16 degrees, which is deemed to be a 'reasonable working temperature' by education unions. We will not allow children (or staff) to work in unacceptably cold environments. I think my rather 'tongue-in-cheek' comment about wearing wooly hats and gloves has been taken too literally by some!

Currently, where children (or staff) have felt cold (all of us feel the cold differently to others), they have been allowed to wear a coat indoors, which is perfectly acceptable. Obviously, for practical reasons this is unsustainable, as a coat doesn't give enough freedom of movement, hence our letter regarding additional uniform, which is **not** compulsory to purchase, as clearly stated in our letter.

*They can be worn in addition to the individual school sweatshirts, **not instead of**. This is not going to be a compulsory piece of uniform so it is entirely optional.*



Air conditioning and ventilation during the coronavirus pandemic

This guidance is based on the latest information and may be updated as and when new information becomes available.

General ventilation

Employers must, by law, ensure an adequate supply of fresh air in the workplace and this has not changed.

Good ventilation can help reduce the risk of spreading coronavirus, so focus on improving general ventilation, preferably through fresh air or mechanical systems.

Where possible, consider ways to maintain and increase the supply of fresh air, for example, by opening windows and doors (unless fire doors).

Also consider if you can improve the circulation of outside air and prevent pockets of stagnant air in occupied spaces. You can do this by using ceiling fans or desk fans for example, provided good ventilation is maintained.

The recommendation was that children can wear two sweatshirts, if needed, and a t-shirt/vest under their normal polo top/shirt - this would then give them 4 layers, which is more than adequate for classrooms of 16 degrees and above. If temperatures drop below that for any reason then we will shut the doors and decrease the ventilation gap on the windows.

As with all COVID related issues, we will review what we are doing in accordance with best practice and guidance from NCC and the Government. We are all having to adapt to new and different challenges in this current climate. The important thing at the moment is that children are back at school learning and progressing.

As ever, if you have any comments or questions then it is always best to email or phone. Our contact details are: Tel: 01263 720401 or email on office-mijs@coastalfederation.com

Yours sincerely,

Simon Wakeman
Executive Head

those requirements.

Ventilation

Increasing ventilation

You should consider how to increase ventilation and air flow in buildings and schools operated transport to ensure that a fresh air supply is consistently flowing through. Consideration should be given to:

- Opening doors and windows where possible and safe to do so.



COVID-19 Compliance code for all educational settings

- Installing alarm activated door openers to keep fire doors open and encourage air flow. Where you do not have an electrical supply near doors you may be able to install wireless operated openers. Where installed, reviewing the setup of your air conditioning system to maximise the intake of fresh air. Fresh air ventilation systems