

STATUTORY CONSULTATION: LEGISLATIVE CHANGES RELATING TO THE CANCELLATION OF THE 2020 KEY STAGE 1 AND KEY STAGE 2 STATUTORY ASSESSMENTS DUE TO CORONAVIRUS

Response of the Association of School and College Leaders

A. Introduction

- 1 The Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) represents over 19,000 education system leaders, heads, principals, deputies, vice-principals, assistant heads, business managers and other senior staff of state-funded and independent schools and colleges throughout the UK. ASCL members are responsible for the education of more than four million young people in more than 90 per cent of the secondary and tertiary phases, and in a rapidly increasing proportion of the primary phase. This places the association in a strong position to consider this issue from the viewpoint of the leaders of schools and colleges of all types.
- 2 ASCL welcomes this consultation and the opportunity to respond.

B. General points

- 3 We are aware that Standards and Testing Agency's (STA) suppliers (in direct correspondence sent on 23 and 24 March 2020) contacted schools who had previously been informed they were part of the 2020 statutory trialling activities or Key Stage 2 science sampling assessment, informing them that they would no longer be required to take part in those trialling activities.
- 4 We are also aware that, as a result of the decision to cancel the assessments, the STA confirmed in correspondence with local authorities on 19 March that local authorities would be relieved of their statutory duties to monitor and moderate.
- 5 We accept that, in order for the existing statutory requirements on headteachers, governing bodies and local authorities relating to the national curriculum assessments to be disapplied for the remainder of the 2019/20 academic year, the Department for Education will need to amend secondary legislation, and has identified the need to amend the following statutory instruments:
 - 1) The Education (National Curriculum) (Key Stage 1 Assessment Arrangements) (England) Order 2004 (SI 2004/2783) ("the Key Stage 1 Order") (Annex A)
 - 2) The Education (National Curriculum) (Key Stage 2 Assessment Arrangements) (England) Order 2003 (SI 2003/1038) ("the Key Stage 2 Order") (Annex B)
- 6 We welcome this opportunity to present our view on the proposed legislative changes to the Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 Orders, i.e:
 - The removal of all current requirements on headteachers, governing bodies and local authorities in relation to the Key Stage 1 and 2 assessments, their monitoring and moderation in the 2019/20 academic year;
 - The proposal to analyse the impact of the cancellation of the phonics screening check, including whether all current Year 1 children should be required to complete the check at the end of Year 2, and to put advice on this to ministers in due course.

- The introduction of the Education (National Curriculum) (Key Stages 1 and 2 Assessment Arrangements) (England) (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Order 2020 to facilitate these changes.

C. Response

- 7 ASCL supports the announcement on 18 March 2020 by the Secretary of State for Education that all statutory National Curriculum assessments due to take place in primary schools in England would not take place in 2020 due to the Coronavirus outbreak.
- 8 We welcome and support the clarification that this means the cancellation of the following assessments between April and July in 2020:
- At Key Stage 1 – the phonics screening check (in Years 1 and 2) and the end of Key Stage 1 tests and teacher assessments;
 - At Key Stage 2 – the Year 4 multiplication tables check, the science sampling test and the end of Key Stage 2 tests and teacher assessments; and
 - All statutory trialling.

D. Conclusion

- 9 We are grateful for the opportunity to contribute to this consultation.
- 10 We hope that this response is of value to the process. ASCL is willing to be further consulted and to assist in any way that it can.

Tiffnie Harris
Primary Specialist
Association of School and College Leaders
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