**Summary EYFS: coronavirus disapplications Updated 15.1.21**

To support early years providers during the coronavirus pandemic, the government is allowing providers to use temporary changes to certain elements of the EYFS where government-imposed restrictions impact on a provider’s ability to deliver the EYFS.

A provider would not be able to use the disapplications simply due to an incidence of Covid-19 in their setting. However, if a number of staff were required to self-isolate and this was significant enough to impact on the provider’s ability to deliver the EYFS, then the disapplications can be used.

**Requirements around Paediatric First Aid**

* Providers with children below the age of 24 months in their care must have at least one person who has a full PFA certificate
* When children aged 2-5 are on site providers must use ‘best endeavours’ to ensure one person with a full PFA is onsite. If this is not possible there must be a written risk assessment and someone with a current first aid at work/emergency PFA certificate must be onsite at all times.
* Childminders must have a full PFA certificate always.
* New entrants (Levels 2 and 3) do not need to hold a PFA certificate within their first 3 months to be counted in ratio.
* Current certificates expiring on or after October 1st 2020 can be extended to March 31st 2021 at the latest. Childminders can also apply this extension.
* However, providers should be able to explain and demonstrate what steps have been taken to access training and arrange for requalification training at the earliest opportunity.
* Practitioners are strongly encouraged to use online resources to refresh their knowledge of PFA procedures while waiting to access face-to-face training.

**EYFS profile** – this will not be mandatory; schools will not need to submit data to the LA or confirm to the DfE that it has been completed. This includes Early Adopter schools. There will be no external moderation. Schools (and settings where appropriate) should use ‘best endeavours’ to complete the EYFS Profile to support the transition to Year 1 and inform parents. If children are attending in school then observations and assessments can be carried out in a similar way to normal. For other children assessment could be based on work submitted, teacher welfare checks, child interaction during online delivery, parental contributions etc. This is a judgement for schools and teachers depending on their individual circumstances.

**Learning and development**

EY providers should use ‘reasonable endeavours’ to provide activities and experiences across the seven areas of learning.

**Progress Check at age 2**

* This does not have to take place and is dependent on individual situations. However, you should remain alert to any emerging concerns about a child and it is expected the checks will take place as soon as practical once the child returns to or joins the setting.

**Staff qualifications and ratios**

* Ratio requirements remain the same.
* A member of staff with a full and relevant Level 3 qualification must always be present in a setting which is open.
* Providers should use ‘reasonable endeavours’ to ensure that at least half of all staff (excluding the manager) hold a full and relevant level 2 qualification.

**FAQS**

**Q. When do the disapplications apply?**

* Only when there is a period of national or local intervention imposed by the government which impacts on your ability to deliver the EYFS. The current arrangements last until 31st August 2021

**Q. Should I be fulfilling the EYFS if I can during this time?**

* The EYFS profile, Progress Check etc should all be carried out if your situation allows, but this will be dependent on individual circumstance of schools and settings.

**Q. Can we still go ahead with an Integrated Review for our two year olds at this time?**

* Yes! It would be very positive to keep carrying these out where possible. This will be dependent on individual situations but could take place by phone call, video link etc.

**Q. Our newly qualified member of staff hasn’t been able to complete her PFA yet – can she still be counted in ratio?**

Yes, but you should be able to demonstrate what efforts you have made to access training and book PFA training as soon as possible.

**Q. Is the EYFS profile assessment still going ahead this year?**

In 2021, the early years foundation stage (EYFS) profile will not be mandatory but providers are required to use their best endeavours to complete it and provide the information to year 1 teachers and parents, if this is possible. This will be a judgement for schools and practitioners, depending on their individual circumstances.

**Q. We have reduced staff numbers due to sickness and staff self-isolating - have the ratio requirements been relaxed?**

* The ratio requirements remain the same under the EYFS disapplications.

**Q. In my preschool all the Level 3 staff are self-isolating – can we still open?**

* A member of staff with a full and relevant Level 3 qualification must always be present in a setting which is open.