

**Iain Peel**

Service Director Schools and Learning  
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To: Headteachers, Principals, Chairs of Governing Boards, FE Colleges and Multi-Academy Chief Executives

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Ask for Iain Peel/Linda Dale

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Our ref IP/VB

Your ref

Date 06 May 2020

Dear colleague

**Attendance Data**

We hope that you are keeping safe and well and thank you for continuing to stay open for children and young people of key workers and also vulnerable children as well.

We have previously contacted you regarding the definition of vulnerable children and this extends to those without a named social worker, where you believe a school place is a better option for them. This is to ensure that they are safe and well and we are currently triangulating the DfE attendance returns with the register information that we have requested from you.

No duties have been relaxed with regards to the safeguarding responsibilities of either schools, local authorities or any statutory agency. We are continually delighted to see that a higher percentage than national of schools are completing the DfE attendance returns and on 4 May 2020, 76.6% of schools completed this. We are also mindful that a small number of schools have never completed the DfE attendance returns, and that some schools did not provide us with the attendance data we requested through the new Derbyshire survey that was launched last week.

In the Government's daily briefings, they have accentuated the expectation for schools to offer vulnerable young people school places. As of this week, local authorities are being asked to complete an additional weekly return to DfE which will include a strong focus on the attendance of vulnerable children. To help provide both the DfE and Derbyshire County Council with an overview and to ensure we know that young people are safe, we would ask that all Derbyshire schools and academies complete the daily DfE attendance return and the weekly Derbyshire County Council attendance survey.

If you encounter difficulties with either, then please contact 01629 536789 or email [cs.schoolsupport@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:cs.schoolsupport@derbyshire.gov.uk)

Your support is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

*Iain Peel*

*Linda Dale*

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Service Director Schools and Learning  
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**Linda Dale**

Service Director Performance, Quality and Partnerships  
Children's Services