

COVID-19 Assignment Freeze - Impact on School placements and scheduled examinations (England only)

This document is intended to be a living document and will be updated as new information is available or new questions come to light. Further information can be found on the [DCYP COVID 19 pages](#)

1. What happens to school places already offered in new assignment locations?

Parents should accept school place offers that are made for the start of the new academic year (September 2020). We are currently working with the Department for Education and our local authority partners, to produce a process to manage school place offers; should the assignment freeze delay the arrival of families to their new area beyond the start of the 20/21 academic year. For those families with children about to enter a new school in Year R or Year 7, it may be necessary for these children to be temporarily enrolled at a school in their current location (dependent on the length of any delay). At this current time, families are advised to not take any action; more details and advice will be shared as they become available.

2. My family were waiting until the Easter school holidays to join me in my new assignment location. What happens to the school place secured in the new location and can my family stay in their current school?

As described in question 1, we are currently working with other government departments and with local authorities to determine the arrangements for families in this situation. In the meantime, parents should ensure that their children are kept on their current school roll, so that (whilst schools remain closed) children can continue to receive support. While local authorities have been made aware of the assignment freeze, it is important that parents communicate with both their current school and the school in the new location. Schools should be made aware of the potential for delay in leaving the current school place and in taking up the new school place.

3. I have 1 child who should be starting in Reception in September 2021 and 1 child who will be starting Year 7 at the same time. What happens if the assignment freeze means our arrival to my new assignment location falls after the school admissions deadline for the academic year 21/22?

The national closing date to secondary school applications (for normal age of entry) is 31 October 2020. The national closing date for primary school applications will be 15 January 2021. Parents will still be able to apply for school places while not physically resident in that area. It will be possible to explain individual circumstances within school admissions application formats and DCYP will continue working with local authorities to develop planning for circumstances which may or may not arise.

While these dates are still some time away, we are currently investigating with our partners, what flexibility can be applied for those with a confirmed assignment order (but delayed Report for Duty Date). We will provide advice in subsequent guidance once we have received further information from our partners.

- 4. Many non-essential SP and most families are returning from overseas bases where healthcare provision is sub-optimal (Kenya, Nepal for example). Depending on how long COVID 19 endures, a temporary solution may be needed for their children's education?**

We are currently working with the local authorities where returned families are being temporarily housed. Arrangements for remote learning are being put in place, from the local authority and, where appropriate, from their current overseas schools. We will be providing location specific details of the arrangements as these are finalised with our local authority partners.

- 5. What is the situation for those in receipt of educational support allowances from Defence e.g. day schools overseas, SEN provision etc – to maintain that support until normal posting cycles and pre-warning processes resume?**

In the case of unplanned assignment extensions due to the current COVID-19 crisis, all valid education costs, including admissible extras, will continue to be paid under existing budgetary arrangements.

- 6. What is the situation for qualification examinations that have been cancelled as a result of COVID-19?**

GCSE and A Levels

The DfE have confirmed that examinations for GCSE and A Levels have been cancelled for the academic year 2019/20. Ofqual have confirmed that students' achievement will be assessed and graded utilising a broad range of evidence. The results will be treated as formal qualifications and will involve the issuing of certificates. Therefore, they will hold the same level of value as examination grades issued in previous years. More information can be found on [GCSEs, AS and A level awarding: summer 2020](#) and [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): cancellation of GCSEs, AS and A levels in 2020](#).

International Baccalaureate

International Baccalaureate examinations have also been cancelled. Students will be issued with a Diploma certificate reflecting the continual assessment completed over the course of the year. Again, grades awarded will be considered as the same in value to those awarded in previous years. Further information can be found on International Baccalaureate's [COVID-19 \(coronavirus\) updates](#).

IGCSE and international A'levels - Cambridge International

All examinations provided through Cambridge International have been cancelled for the 2019/20 academic year. Cambridge will be working collaboratively with schools to gather evidence to support the issuing of grades for candidates. Further information can be found on Cambridge International's webpage: [Novel coronavirus - Information for schools about the COVID-19 \(coronavirus\) outbreak](#).

IGCSE and International A Levels delivered through Edexcel Pearson

Edexcel Pearson iGCSE and international A Levels have issued the following statement;

“We have today made the difficult decision not to hold any General Qualification exams in May and June 2020 globally. This applies to iPrimary, iLower Secondary, International GCSE and International A Levels, as well as our UK GCSE and A level qualifications. We remain committed to ensuring that all students internationally receive a result and a grade, and we will award grades to international students using the same principles as for the UK GCSE and A level qualifications.”

Further details can be found on Pearson’s webpage: [International Centres \(not including UK\)](#).

Contact DCYP

Parents with individual concerns or questions should make contact with CEAS via their email address at DCYP-CEAS-Enquiries@mod.gov.uk.

Children’s Education Advisory Service (CEAS)

The Children’s Education Advisory Service (CEAS) supports operational effectiveness through the provision of educational support to service and eligible MOD civilian families. CEAS provides authoritative, confidential, impartial advice to service and eligible MOD civilian families on a wide range of educational issues including:

- parental rights and responsibilities
- children or young person’s rights and responsibilities
- special educational needs and/or disability
- school admissions and appeals
- [overseas education in non-MOD school areas](#)
- retention of quarters for educational purposes
- continuity of education allowance

For further information, please visit the [CEAS main webpage](#).