



## NATIONAL MOURNING ADVISORY EDUCATION GUIDANCE

*The purpose of this document is to provide education settings with guidance on the period of National Mourning following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.*

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## Introduction

1. [National Mourning guidance](#) has been issued by the Cabinet Office and is available on GOV.UK.
2. This advisory guidance document is intended to provide education and childcare settings with an explanation of National Mourning and outline some practical advice on how your sector may wish to observe public mourning during this period. Public services will continue, and we recognise education settings may want to take the opportunity to commemorate Her Majesty with appropriate events.
3. The official date of the State Funeral will be **19 September 2022**. This will be a bank holiday.
4. Education settings and their local communities are diverse and will choose to pay tribute to Her Majesty in a wide variety of ways. You may choose to honour Her Majesty with flags, silences, or floral tributes, for example. You can find further information in the [National Mourning guidance](#) available on GOV.UK.
5. We recommend education settings undertake the following actions:
  - Familiarise yourselves with this advisory guidance and the Cabinet Office National Mourning guidance.
  - Email / write to all parents / carers to confirm the date for the upcoming bank holiday, and closure if appropriate.

## Education Sectors

6. This guidance is advisory to all education sectors. Each setting will need to consider their individual circumstances including their local events during this period.

## Early years

7. National Mourning period
  - There is no obligation for settings to observe particular behaviours during the mourning period. Depending on the nature and location of your setting and the tone of planned events, some settings may wish to consider closing or postponing events, especially on the day of the State Funeral, however this is at the discretion of individual settings.
  - Settings may want to consider conducting special activities or adapting planned activities to reflect the period of National Mourning and commemorate the life of Her Majesty.

## 8. State Funeral

- The official date of the State Funeral will be a bank holiday. As with other bank holidays, it is at the discretion of individual settings whether they close or stay open.

## 9. Ofsted Inspections

- Ofsted inspections will continue as normal. No inspections will be scheduled on the bank holiday. Settings should discuss any concerns with Ofsted, including whether they are facing exceptional circumstances that might warrant deferral of their inspection.

## Schools

### 10. National Mourning period

- Normal school attendance is expected throughout the National Mourning period, other than the bank holiday.
- Headteachers continue to have the power to authorise leaves of absence for pupils in exceptional circumstances. Schools should consider requests for leave of absence on a case-by-case basis taking into account individual circumstances.
- Schools may want to consider holding assemblies or adapting planned lessons to reflect the period of National Mourning and commemorate the life of Her Majesty. Schools may wish to adapt the lesson materials about the Queen's Jubilee produced by [Royal Collections Trust](#) and [The National Archives](#) for this purpose.
- [Minded](#) is a source of information to support children to manage death and loss.
- Schools wishing to pay their respects by flying any flags at half-mast or holding silences should follow the guidance that has been issued by the Government.
- Schools in Central London may face disruption during the National Mourning period and in particular during the preparations for the State Funeral; and they should talk to their local authority about potential implications.

### 11. State funeral

- The official date of the State Funeral will be a bank holiday.
- Schools are not expected to remain open on the bank holiday. It should be treated as any normal bank holiday.
- In the attendance register, schools should use the administration Code #: Planned whole or partial school closure. This code should be used for whole or partial school closures that are known or planned in advance such as bank holidays.

## 12. Assessments

- If any selective testing is due to take place on the bank holiday, we strongly encourage schools and admission authorities to work together to find an alternative date.

## 13. Educational Visits

- If schools have educational visits planned for the bank holiday, depending on the nature of the visit, they should discuss options for rearranging. If this is not possible, they should discuss with their commercial insurance company, or the risk protection arrangement (RPA).

## 14. Arrangements for Schools with a religious character

- The government recognises that schools with a religious character may want to hold a religious service to mark the passing of Her Majesty. Schools are able to do this as part of their daily act of Collective Worship or through a specially organised service.

## 15. Bank Holidays

- The bank holiday announcement will not mean teachers will be required to teach an additional day. We will reduce the minimum number of sessions for this school year via regulations and change the definitions in the school teachers' pay and conditions document for the current year.

## 16. Ofsted Inspections

- Ofsted inspections will continue as normal. No inspections will be scheduled on the bank holiday. Schools should discuss any concerns with Ofsted, including whether they are facing exceptional circumstances that might warrant deferral of their inspection.

## **Further Education**

### 17. National Mourning period

- Normal college attendance is expected throughout the National Mourning period, other than the bank holiday.
- As per current arrangements, principals continue to have the power to authorise leaves of absence for students in exceptional circumstances. FE providers should consider requests for leave of absence on a case-by-case basis taking into account individual circumstances.
- FE providers may want to consider holding student gatherings or adapting planned lessons to reflect the period of National Mourning and commemorate the life of the Her Majesty. FE providers may wish to adapt the lesson materials about the Queen's Jubilee produced by

[Royal Collections Trust](#) and [The National Archives](#) for this purpose.

- FE providers should ensure student welfare and support services are available to them.
- FE providers wishing to pay their respects by half-masting flags or holding silences should follow the guidance that has been issued by the Government.
- FE providers in Central London may face disruption during the National Mourning period and in particular during the preparations for the State Funeral; and they should talk to their local authority and local police about potential implications.

#### 18. State Funeral

- The official date of the State Funeral will be a bank holiday. Colleges are not expected to remain open on the bank holiday. It should be treated as any normal bank holiday.

#### 19. Educational Visits

- If FE providers have educational visits planned for the bank holiday, depending on the nature of the visit, they should discuss options for rearranging this visit with the provider. If this is not possible, they should discuss with their commercial insurance company.

#### 20. Work placements

- Where students have already started or are due to start work placements during the period of mourning, we would expect those to continue as planned where the employer is operating as normal during that period.

#### 21. Bank Holiday

- Term dates will not be impacted due to the bank holiday.

#### 22. Ofsted Inspections

- Ofsted inspections will continue as normal. No inspections will be scheduled on the bank holiday. FE Providers should discuss any concerns with Ofsted, including whether they are facing exceptional circumstances that might warrant deferral of their inspection.

### **Higher Education**

#### 23. National Mourning period

- Higher education providers are autonomous institutions, and it is for them to decide if they remain open for the period of National Mourning. Providers should ensure that they communicate clearly to students and staff about arrangements during the National Mourning period.
- There is no expectation for businesses, including university libraries

and museums, to close during the mourning period unless they wish to. Providers may wish to postpone wider campus activities including debates and events during this time. This is at the discretion of individual organisations.

- Higher education providers in Central London should consider disruption during the National Mourning period and in particular during the preparations for the State Funeral; and they should talk to their local authority and local police about potential implications.

#### 24. State Funeral

- The official date of the State Funeral will be a bank holiday.
- HE providers must continue to comply with their legal obligations and communicate with students if their institution will be closed due the bank holiday.
- The decision as to whether sporting fixtures continue to go ahead is at the discretion of organisers and should take into consideration the [National Mourning guidance](#).

### **Out-of-school settings and wraparound childcare**

#### 25. National Mourning period

- We do not expect out-of-school settings and wraparound childcare settings to close during the National Mourning period.
- There is no obligation for settings to observe particular behaviours during the mourning period. Depending on the nature and location of their setting and the tone of planned events, some settings may wish to consider closing or postponing events, especially on the day of the State Funeral, however this is at the discretion of individual providers.
- Settings may want to consider conducting special activities or adapting planned activities or lessons to reflect the period of National Mourning and commemorate the life of the Queen. Settings may wish to adapt the lesson materials about the Queen's Jubilee produced by [Royal Collections Trust](#) and [The National Archives](#) for this purpose.
- [Minded](#) is a source of information to support children to manage death and loss.

#### 26. State Funeral

- The official date of the State Funeral will be a bank holiday.
- It is at the discretion of individual out-of-school settings or wraparound childcare providers whether they close or stay open.

#### 27. Educational Visits

- If out-of-school settings or wraparound childcare providers have visits planned for the bank holiday, depending on the nature of the visit, they should discuss options for rearranging. If this is not possible, they

should discuss with their commercial insurance company.

## 28. Ofsted Inspections

- Ofsted inspections will continue as normal. No inspections will be scheduled on the bank holiday. Settings should discuss any concerns with Ofsted, including whether they are facing exceptional circumstances that might warrant deferral of their inspection.

## **National Guidance**

Cabinet Office [National Mourning guidance](#) is available on GOV.UK

## **Further Information**

For further information, please refer to the [Royal Website](#) or [GOV.UK](#)