

# Education Services

## Framework for Recovery, Resilience and Re-connection (RRR2020)

### To all staff

#### End of term message

Well, what a year it has been!

Who would have thought this time last year that I would be writing my end of term message to all staff in the midst of a global pandemic?

Firstly my heartfelt thanks to everyone for their work over the last very challenging few months.

While the abrupt closure of our schools and nurseries on 23<sup>rd</sup> March and the challenge of living in lockdown has filled our every waking (and often sleeping) moments, we mustn't forget the achievements of the whole year or lose sight of the amazing work that takes place in our schools and nurseries every day.

Throughout 2019/20, our children and young people thrived in our schools and nurseries, they made progress in their learning through well-planned lessons which allowed them to flourish and achieve their potential. They took part in residential experiences which broadened their horizons. They took on leadership roles through the most amazing range of committees in their schools. They led their own learning in classrooms across the city. I couldn't be prouder of their achievements and the levels of commitment from staff who made it all happen.

Our annual Nurture conference was due to take place in May and we have made a series of film to illustrate how much nurture is embedded in our work. I watched them all last week – they served to remind me yet again the impact that education has on the lives of our families and the difference that your work makes to improve their lives through nurturing and raising aspirations.

During 2019/20, we welcomed a range of visitors specifically coming to the city because they had heard how successful we are improving outcomes. They came from Lewisham, Scarborough, Leeds, and Hounslow, to name but a few. The London Violence Reduction Unit are promoting nurture on the evidence of our success. Kate Silverton of BBC news fame visited to make a programme and was blown away by the inclusive approaches that are such hard work but so successful in changing our children's lives.

When looking back on 2019/20, of course, we cannot forget the challenges we have faced and continue to face due to the global health crisis but we mustn't forget that we will be back

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to normal, or a variation of normal, as soon as we can. We make a difference to our children's lives and we can only do that if they are in our schools and nurseries as much as possible.

We know we will have to think carefully about some of our practices to keep ourselves and everyone else safe but we now know much more about how this virus works. The pace since 23<sup>rd</sup> March has been breath taking and, at times, a bit scary, but we are coming out the other side a stronger team and it is absolutely clear to me that our achievements over the last ten years mean that we are better placed than many others to recover.

Thank you so much for all your work - whether you are working in a school or a nursery as support for learning worker, teacher, child development officer, clerical, janitor, cleaner, head or in headquarters as a finance officer, HR officer, secretary, researcher – the list of roles goes on – apologies if your title isn't there! I am personally very grateful – I know this year has been exceptionally hard on all of us, but, as I said at the outset, we will be back, we will be stronger and by working together we will continue to make a difference to Glasgow's children and young people.

THANK YOU!

Maureen