

Education Services

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

Updated Back to School Parent Q&A – July 2020

Following consultation with the Glasgow City Parents' Group

Physical Distancing in Secondary Schools

The Scottish Government published scientific advice on 16 July from the Covid-19 Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues – you can read the [full advice here](#).

The advice states that there is no requirement for physical distancing between any children and young people in primary and secondary schools.

However, schools should encourage distancing where possible between young people in secondary schools and in particular in the senior phase, provided it does not introduce capacity constraints and/or prevent a return to full time learning in school.

School staff should observe the 2m physical distancing advice where possible in schools.

Breakfast Clubs

Primary schools will still offer breakfast clubs and schools will communicate any new procedures directly with their parents.

Some secondary schools currently offer breakfast clubs and these should continue.

Start and end of the day

Schools will be advising you of the arrangements for bringing your child to school. There is likely to be restrictions to keep you and the children safe. It may mean that parents will not be able to come into the playground or have to use a particular entrance. Please be patient and work with your school – plans may have to be amended if they don't quite work first time!

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It might be that our schools in the short term will organise a staggered start and finish to the school day in order to reduce the number of children and young people arriving and the start and leaving at the end of the school day.

Schools will communicate their processes directly with their families.

Face coverings/Face shields/PPE

For the majority of staff in schools, PPE will not normally be required of necessary.

The current Scottish Government advice and guidance on face coverings is that there is no need for children and young people to wear face coverings unless they choose to do so or those clinically advised to wear a covering.

School staff should where possible try and observe the 2m physical distancing but where adults can't keep 2m distance and are interacting face-to-face with pupils for 15 minutes or more then they should wear a face covering.

Our recovery plan highlights the importance of facial expressions for teaching, particularly when children have additional support needs, such as those acquiring English or have a hearing impairment.

Parent Council Communication

Parent councils play a crucial role in communicating key decisions and information to their school community. The Parent Council should be consulted on the school's plans and be able to represent the views of the community to ensure that plans take into account local needs. They also have a role to play in feeding back to the local community and promoting strong partnerships between the school and parents.

There's established channels of communications between the council's education services and the Glasgow City Parents' Group who will continue to liaise with parent councils across the city. Engagement sessions will also continue that will include Maureen McKenna, Executive Director of Education.

Outdoor Learning

The current Scottish Government and scientific advice actively encourages more outdoor learning – something that city schools and nurseries have been actively involved in for years. Schools will communicate directly with their families on their plans for outdoor learning.

Saturday Choirs/Music Lessons

The guidance and scientific advice is to reduce the contact of large and mixed groups of children at the moment which includes mass singing due to possible aerosol spread of the virus.

A decision has been taken to cancel the CREATE Saturday sessions until October at the earliest when this will be re-evaluated and a decision taken on any updated advice from the government.

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Schools will be in touch with parents on decisions being taken about practical music lessons in school – it might be possible for senior phase one to one lessons to take place in relation to SQA course work and following a risk assessment.

Transport

Scottish Government guidance in relation to transport was published on 16 July – you can read the [full advice here](#).

In summary, dedicated school transport will be regarded as an extension of the school estate and that face coverings for children and young people are not necessary on dedicated school transport. The council will work with transport providers to agree an enhanced cleaning regime for the buses.

Pupils who use public transport should follow the guidance for that mode of transport and set out by the transport provider. At the moment this means wearing face coverings.

Glasgow will also be promoting active travel to and from schools to parents and young people and as part of the council's Spaces for People initiative to widen footways and create temporary cycle lanes – encouraging people... **“To help suppress COVID-19, we're making it easier to keep your distance when out walking, wheeling and cycling”**

We are also extending our car free zones to more primary schools following a successful pilot last year. We will be consulting with the next group of primary schools early in the term.

Cleaning

Enhanced cleaning regimes have been put in place across all of the school estate with an increase in cleaning hours of over 46%. Additional cleaning products will also be available for any additional cleaning required.

Catering

Officers have been working over the summer to make sure that catering plans are in place for the start of the new term and for a return to full time.

Hot meals (two choices each day in the short term increasing to three choices) will be available and they will be served as usual in the canteen or school dining area. Schools will make arrangements to stagger lunch breaks to reduce the number of children and young people in the dining hall at any one time.

Schools will communicate any new arrangements directly with their families. This will include new ways to pay for lunch and/or breakfast club to reduce cash handling. Children will be supported to make their lunch choice in class to reduce queuing.

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Curriculum, Learning and Teaching

Children's experiences of learning will have been quite different through the lockdown procedure. We recognise that good health and well-being is fundamental to ensuring that children and young people can engage effectively in their learning.

When returning to school children will have regular contact with someone – their class teacher or pastoral care teacher or another member of the staff team, who knows them well, to talk about their well-being; to share experience during lockdown; to offer compassion and individual support as required; and to support engagement with learning.

Not all children will want to talk about their experiences – for most children the return to the structure of a well-planned school/nursery day will be what they have missed and what they need to recover.

Our educational psychologists have written a reconnection paper in order to support all children and young people on return to school. [You can read the document here.](#)

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