

Education Services

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

Dear Parents

Scottish Government Announcement – full time return of schools and nurseries

Today the Scottish Government announced that the scientific advice and evidence in relation to the current suppression of COVID-19 will allow the full time return of all schools and nurseries from the start of the new term in August.

This is really good news for our children and young people who will be able to return to their schools from Wednesday 12 August with enhanced health and safety measures in place that follow the current public health and government guidance. Some children have already returned to our full year nurseries and our term-time nursery services will also re-open to children on 12th August with enhanced health and safety measures in place.

I am pleased to advise that our nurseries will be moving towards implementing the delivery of the 1140 hours expansion for 3 and 4 year olds and eligible two year olds as quickly as possible once the new national guidance comes into force in August. We expect that many of our nurseries will be able to make speedy progress on delivering the expanded hours as previously planned but we may still face some delivery challenges as a result of the guidance which will mean that some nurseries will progress more slowly than others.

If a nursery is unable to offer the expanded hours to all eligible children because of health and safety restrictions, we will give priority to working families (single parents or two parents working) and vulnerable families. Other families would be offered a minimum of the statutory 600 hours and more wherever possible – and of course we will continue to seek solutions and work with Scottish Government as guidance changes to increase that to the full 1140. Nursery classes will not be offering 1140 hours but will continue with the 600 or 900 hour offer that was in place prior to lockdown.

If your child was already attending a Council nursery prior to lockdown, the nursery will be in touch to discuss a re-start date with you and explain what they can offer. If you are a new applicant, you will shortly be contacted confirming whether or not a place has been allocated for your child by the admissions panel and advising on available hours and start dates.

With regard to our Funded Provider partner nurseries, we have confirmed that we will fund up to 1140 hours for eligible children according to whatever hours each nursery can deliver within the terms of the national guidance. Some of our Funded Provider nurseries may also face operational challenges around delivering services in line with the new guidance but where they can deliver without restriction, the Council will fund the place.

I know that the last five months have been a challenge for us all and I would like to take this opportunity once again to thank all our children and young people, families, school and nursery staff for their strength and commitment during the school closures.

It has not been easy and I know that some will still be anxious as we make our way through the easing of lockdown restrictions.

Please let me reassure you that risk assessments have been carried out in all our establishments and officers have been working on plans for increased cleaning regimes, appropriate health and safety measures and new protocols that will need to be in place as the country deals with this global health pandemic.

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These protocols include promoting good hand hygiene, observing the age-appropriate physical distancing measures outlined by current government guidance as well as public health advice to help reduce the spread of the virus.

All current advice, guidance and information is published on our schools and learning page and we will continue to update this <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/article/25947/Recovery-Resilience-and-Reconnection-2020>

Your child's nursery will also keep you updated about their specific plans ahead of full re-opening at the beginning of the new term.

This will include any new guidance on drop off and pick up from nursery arrangements, meals and snacks.

Our schools and nurseries will also be able to support any children and young people who may need some extra help as a result of lock down and the interruption to their learning.

I'm delighted that we are now in the position to welcome our children and young people back to their schools and nurseries – a chance to resume some stability and normality after a long period of uncertainty and resume full time education.

Thank you again for your support during these times.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maureen McKenna". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

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