



Parent Council Chairs

12 January 2022

Welcome – Fiona Robertson

- Covid Update
- SQA update
- ASN overview
- Parental Engagement
- Equipped for Learning

Guidance updated

- COVID Guidance from the Scottish Government continues to be reviewed and updated guidance was published on 7 January.
- In light of the Omicron variant safety mitigations that were already in place must continue to be strictly followed and some measures that were previously relaxed should be reintroduced.
- Importance of regular LFD testing is stressed throughout and especially before return to school. Tests are available from secondary schools.

Key changes

- A strengthened approach to minimising contacts, primarily through the reintroduction of groupings where practical
- Tightened restrictions on school visitors
- Updated guidance on regular ventilation and CO2 monitoring
- Measures aimed at increasing the uptake of regular asymptomatic testing
- An update to guidance on school visits and trips
- A requirement for schools and local authorities to provide essential support for particular groups, including vulnerable children and young people, in the event of temporary school closures at a local level

Contacts/groupings

- Minimise indoor contacts by using groupings where possible – e.g. year groups, senior phase, etc
- Avoid assemblies and other larger gatherings – if unavoidable then additional mitigations required such as distancing, ventilation, masks, outside spaces and limiting time
- Parents should drop off from school playgrounds and wear masks
- Drop off/pick up times should be considered to stagger entry and exit
- Groupings not required on public transport

Staffing

- Service could be affected by numbers of staff absent
- Wherever possible we will keep children and young people in school
- Schools will share contingency plans with parents
- May be short term periods of a class remote learning
- Catering and cleaning staff are affected by staffing challenges and dinner hall service suspended at the moment and will resume as soon possible.

Visitors

- Supply and other essential professional visitors can continue
- Numbers of visitors kept to a minimum and other means considered – e.g. online
- Parents/carers can attend when essential and for benefit of children/young people
- All visitors agreed in advance and situation risk-assessed and expectations clearly communicated
- Parents/carers can spectate at outdoor sports events (with mitigations in place)
- Parent Council meetings should be online

Ventilation

- Increased focus and more detailed guidance received
- Local authorities will continue to work with schools to ensure CO2 levels checked regularly
- Local authorities will work with schools to ensure there are enough devices and implement CO2 monitoring strategies
- Any concerns from CO2 monitoring should be actioned
- Place Directorate leading on this work

Self isolation and contact tracing

- Reduction in time to 7 days with negative LFD at day 6 and 24 hours later at day 7.
- Adults will not be asked to give details of close contacts under the age of 18 (e.g. pupils) unless they are a household contact.
- Children are regarded as low risk.
- Children will not be asked to share details of staff contacts unless there has been unusually prolonged contact with the staff member
- However, “business as usual” school contact is not high risk
- When schools are informed of a positive case they will identify low risk contacts and issue a targeted information letter

SQA

- Prelims are currently going ahead as planned.
- Currently awaiting an announcement from SQA regarding which scenario we will follow this summer. These were outlined in their December communication to schools and local authorities:
- **Scenario 1**; preparing for the national exam diet with significant modifications to the 2021-22 course assessments – coursework and/or exams – which were announced at the start of the session. These assessment modifications are in place to help learners by taking account of disruption to learning caused by the pandemic. (this is the scenario currently in place)

SQA

- Should there be significantly more disruption to learning and teaching across the country, the country will enter **Scenario 2** and SQA will provide additional support for learners to help them prepare and revise for the 2022 exams, where that is possible. Not all courses will have revision support as some do not have an exam in 2022, or the exam has been reduced in size through the modifications that have already been made. However, in this situation, the vast majority of learners will receive help from revision support in one or more of their courses. There will not be any further modifications made to the course assessments.
- If the Scottish Government cancels the examinations due to public health restrictions at the time of exams, the country will enter **Scenario 3**. That means the evidence teachers and lecturers are gathering through normal in-year assessment to determine learners' estimates can be used to form the basis of learners' provisional results.

Team

- Sam Smith- Additional Support for Learning Manager: Primary & EY
- Josie Adamson- Additional Support for Learning Manager: Secondary
- Keith Millar- Quality Improvement Officer: Inclusion & Wellbeing
- Gail Currie- PLLO: Update will be given
- Anna Chidgey- HT: Seconded to work on policy
- Claire Bond- HT: Seconded 2 days a week to work on policy

Ongoing work- this session

- High level strategy paper of intent- This is guided by the key principles of:
 - Equity
 - Inclusion
 - Locality Based
 - Midlothian Based
- Identified training opportunities to be added to CLPL programme- please let us know of requirements
- SEEMIS guidance and ASN input
- Consultation over the directorate to create a reformed 'Access for Support' system
- Achievements- enhanced classes, network groups
- Parent voice- PIE: survey and focus groups: how parents are/ can be involved in improving outcomes for children
- Pupil voice- survey and focus groups: how pupils feel about their education and how they are/ can be involved in improving outcomes included their mental health

Other developments this session

- Accessibility Statement
- Parental Engagement Strategy

Survey to Parent Councils via Survey Monkey – establish 'Ground Zero'

- Raise survey at PC Chairs meeting
- Share at HTs Meeting
- Create survey
- Issue by Friday 14 January – Open for 2 weeks

Parental Involvement & Engagement Census

- Timeline
- Set-up/consider questions with a working group with PC Chairs
- Consult
- IT Support
- Communication with HTs/Parents Councils/Parents
- Promote on all platforms
- Equitable access

Pupil Voice

- Arrange meeting with Julia Ellison re Pupil Voice Group Training
- Connect with Scottish Youth Parliament members
- Meet with Pupil Voice Groups in schools to introduce and highlight the importance of their voice
- Create pupil voice survey, including mental health, in consultation with pupils and parents focus groups
- Consider termly 'Meet the...' sessions

The UNCRC, My Child & Me: An Introduction for Parents & Families to the Incorporation of the UNCRC

Questions that will frame the session:

- What is the UNCRC?
- What is the incorporation of the UNCRC? ([See this link to Scottish Government Announcement](#))
- Schools are being asked to take a rights-based approach, what does this mean?
- Why is understanding children's rights important for teachers and parents/families?
- How are schools beginning to embed a rights-based approach?
- How might we, as parents and family members, promote a rights-based approach?

Decision-Making to Promote Inclusive Practice: A Session for Parents & Families on How Schools are Supporting Transgender Young People

Questions to frame the session:

- What is inclusive practice?
- How does inclusive practice connect with the UNCRC, GIRFEC and the Equalities Act (2010)?
- Why is inclusive practice important for all children and young people?
- How do schools go about making decisions around inclusive practice?
- What does 'Transgender' mean?
- How does this decision-making process support all pupils, including transgender young people?

Dates of Sessions

Thursday 24th February, 6:30pm – 7:30pm: **The UNCRC, My Child & Me:** An Introduction for Parents & Families to the Incorporation of the UNCRC

Thursday 3rd March, 6:30pm – 7:30pm: **Decision-Making to Promote Inclusive Practice:** A Session for Parents & Families on How Schools are Supporting Transgender Young People

Parent/Carer Webinars – Digital Learning

wb 7th February 2022

All About Your Child's iPad / Chromebook

February – March 2022

Learning Together: Google Classroom

Learning Together: Seesaw

Learning Together: Being Creative on Your Digital Device

TBC

Keeping Your Child Safe Online

Supporting Your Child with JAMF Parent

Supporting Your Child with Lightspeed Parent

Parental Engagement - Digital Tools

Reference Group of Parent Council Chairs requested

First meeting wb 24th January 2022

Express your interest: <https://forms.gle/THRfMzoEhmXJPF3t6>

Transformation of Learning & Teaching

Storage

Data
Classification
& Security

Next
Generation
Wi-Fi &
Networks

Legacy to
Cloud
Filtering

Classroom
Audio Visual

Developing
Long Term
Support

Asset
Management

Equipped for Learning Device Deployment

November – December
High School Deployment Complete

January – March
Primary School & ASN Deployment Scheduled

Your support is appreciated in encouraging parent/carers to complete the consent form.

Meetings going forward

- What would you like?
- Format?
- Areas of interest?