

## **Aberdeenshire**

### **RESPONSE TO EDUCATION AND SKILLS COMMITTEE:**

#### **Ongoing impact of the coronavirus pandemic on school education and school pupils**

#### **Aberdeenshire Council response**

##### ***What plans, measures and strategy are in place to help pupils “catch up” following the impact of the pandemic on school education, particularly for those moving from Primary 7 into high school***

Plans are in place across schools in Aberdeenshire to ensure in the first instance pupils return safely to learning experiences within school. During periods of remote learning staff have been carrying out ongoing assessment of learning and providing feedback to pupils. From starting back at school staff in all schools will be assessing pupils learning using a variety of tools and planning learning from where pupils are at.

With regard to transition for Primary 7 pupils ongoing work has been planned across clusters between Primary and Secondary colleagues. Online transition events are ongoing involving both pupils and parents. Schools are using the developed approaches to technology to further support transitions through online meetings and sharing of work between primary schools and their local academies.

All schools across Aberdeenshire have access to recovery teaching and PSA staff who are supporting pupils to make the best possible progress. These staff are involved in taking targeted groups, team teaching and working on a one-to-one basis with pupils. Further financial support has been offered more recently to the authority and this will be further utilised on a cluster basis to provide support going forward.

Measures that will be put in place across all school settings:

- Assess learner's social and emotional needs in the first few weeks by planning and delivering open activities and the use of specific health and wellbeing assessments.
- Use forward plans, previous assessments, learning activities and tasks - including those carried out during the period of remote learning - to support initial assessment of learner progress.
- Use of engagement tracking/assessment evidence used during lockdown to support gathering of assessment information on children's learning
- Baseline and follow up assessments to any bespoke programme of work which may be put in place for a short period of time to reinforce different areas of learning for some learners
- For transition sharing of all relevant assessment information in place including standardised assessment information and data from SNSA's carried out.

### ***Confirmation of how blended learning is being delivered in your local authority area***

Aberdeenshire Council published a letter from the Director of Education and Children's Services on Wednesday, 3rd March 2021 which clearly outlines the position of the local authority. In line with this the council has asked families to be aware of the constraints that schools are working within. They have outlined the following:

- Each school will decide on the number of pupils who can be in school each day based on available accommodation, staffing availability, transport availability and other constraints.
- Each school will have flexibility to deliver what is best for their learners based on the 2m physical distancing requirement. It should be noted, however, that only one third of the overall school roll is likely to be able to be accommodated in the school building at any given time given the 2m physical distancing requirement. For example, a 900-student school will be able to accommodate no more than 300 young people at any given time. Furthermore, some schools will have an imbalance in numbers across different year groups which will exacerbate the timetabling challenges they face.
- Priority is continuing to be given to senior phase students working towards SQA and other qualifications.
- The service will work with schools to augment in-school learning with an appropriate outdoor learning and health and wellbeing package to support learner wellbeing where staffing and facilities are available

For pupils, subject teams and Faculties within individual academies have made the decision to either do one or a mix of the following approaches, depending on their circumstances:

- Maintain Remote Learning up to the Easter holidays for particular aspects of subjects.
- Invite specific groups of pupils into school for face-to-face teaching to support learning
- Invite pupils into school, on a rota, as per their timetable for face-to-face teaching to support learning
- Invite pupils into school for face-to-face teaching as per their timetable.
- Priority timetabling for assessments required to be carried out for SQA

All S1 to S3 pupils will receive some face-to-face time with staff in schools each week leading up to the easter break. The focus for these will be Health and wellbeing as well as preparation for a full return following the easter break.

In order to continue to support remote learning the ICT team continue to offer training and support to all schools on developing practice within remote learning. Where pupils are not attending school remote learning will continue with the support of the material published by Education Scotland, use of West OS partnership, E Sgoil and other resources such as BBC Bitesize as well as individual programmes of work/tasks planned for within individual schools.

***Whether any school building capital projects have been delayed as a result of the pandemic.***

<b>Building Projects 20/21</b>	<b>Classification</b>	<b>Original Programme</b>	<b>Revised Programme</b>
Banff Academy - Technical Toilet Block	Refurbishment	Summer 2020	Summer 2021
Mintlaw Primary School - Toilet Block	Refurbishment	Summer 2020	Oct-20
Gordon Primary School Nursery	1140 New Build	August 2019 - April 2020	August 2019 - October 2021
Fishermoss School Nursery	1140 New Build	Jan - Aug 2020	Jan - Oct 2020
Fettercairn School Nursery	1140 Refurbishment	Complete May 2020	Complete August 2020
Mill O Forest School Nursery	1140 Refurbishment	Complete April 2020	Complete July 2020
Crimond School Nursery	1140 Refurbishment	Complete April 2020	Complete July 2020
Aberchirder School Nursery	1140 Refurbishment	Complete May 2020	Complete July 2020
MacDuff School Nursery	1140 Refurbishment	Complete April 2020	Complete June 2020
Balmedie School Nursery - Potterton Annexe	1140 Refurbishment	Complete April 2020	Complete July 2020
Boddam School Nursery	1140 Refurbishment	Complete May 2020	Complete August 2020
Towie School Nursery	1140 Refurbishment	Complete June 2020	Complete August 2020
Laurencekirk School Nursery	1140 Refurbishment	Complete April 2020	Complete August 2020
Buchanhaven School Nursery	1140 Refurbishment	Complete June 2020	Complete September 2020
Whitehills School Nursery	1140 Refurbishment	Complete May 2020	Complete September 2020

Rhynie School Nursery	1140 Refurbishment	Complete April 2020	Complete August 2020
Strathburn School Nursery	1140 Refurbishment	Complete June 2020	Complete August 2020
Monquhitter School Nursery	1140 Refurbishment	Complete May 2020	Complete November 2020
Arduthie School Nursery	1140 Refurbishment	Complete August 2020	Complete November 2020
Banchory Primary School Nursery	1140 Refurbishment	Complete July 2020 <sup>2</sup>	Complete October 2020
Portsoy School Nursery	1140 Refurbishment	Complete June 2020	Complete March 2021
Clerkhill School Nursery	1140 Refurbishment	Complete August 2020	Complete March 2021
Kellands School Nursery	1140 Refurbishment	Complete August 2020	Complete December 2020
St Cyrus School Nursery	1140 Refurbishment	Complete August 2020	Complete December 2020
Tullynessle School Nursery	1140 Refurbishment	Complete September 2020	Complete November 2020
Port Elphinstone School Nursery	1140 Refurbishment	Complete August 2020	Complete March 2021

## ECS Enhancements

<b>Projects 20/21</b>		<b>Original Programme</b>	<b>Revised Programme</b>
Alford Ski Slope - Resurfacing		by March 2020	Summer 2021
Fishermoss School - Furniture for School		inc. in 1140 works	inc. in 1140 works
Fraserburgh Academy - HE Upgrade Phase 2		Summer 2020	Summer 2021
Hillside School Extension		Jan - Aug 2020	January 2020 - January 2021
Mackie Academy - Changing Room Refurbishment		placed on hold	May 2021 - December 2021
Premnay School Extension		Completion by July 2020	Oct-20
Temporary Accommodation Removal	Portlethen Primary	Apr-20	Oct-20
	Turriff Academy	inc. in wider works	inc. in wider works
	Kintore School x 2	Summer 2020	Summer 2020
	Catterline	Summer 2020	Summer 2021
	Midmar	Summer 2020	Summer 2021
The Gordon Schools - Learning Plaza/Courtyard		Complete by March 2020	March - June 2021
Turriff Academy - Phase 2		Complete by Summer 2021	May 2021 - January 2022
Cluny School - Increase toilet numbers & hot water provision		Complete by Sept 2020	Summer 2021
Kemnay Academy - Dining /Servery Enhancements		Summer 2020	Summer 2021
Kellands School		Summer 2020	Summer 2021
Insch School Reception		n/a	Summer 2021
Methlick School Toilets		Summer 2020	Summer 2021

***More generally, the Committee would also welcome any other comments you have to make on the impact of Covid-19 on school education, including the following:***

***What will be the immediate priorities as pupils again return to in-school learning?***

Immediate priorities on a return to in school learning are the health, safety and wellbeing of all pupils. All schools will be working with health and wellbeing at the forefront whilst also ensuring all appropriate safety measures are in place in line with risk assessments carried out. Relationships will also be a key focus as schools fully understand that pupils have not seen or interacted with each other for a significant period of time. Learning outdoors will also remain a priority in supporting the health and wellbeing.

Re-establishing what the school stands for within the community. (Using the vision, values to support the daily life for all in school.)

Consideration will be given to:

- Acknowledging and responding to the experiences of pupils and their family/community.
- Providing appropriate supports to meet individual needs
- Rebuilding the sense of community across the school in its locality
- Re-establishing positive and trusting relationships
- Engagement with the new routines and structures - supporting all to become familiar and confident within these.

There will also be a focus on re engagement with the curriculum:

- A key focus on Literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing.
- Ensuring learning experiences are based on a strengths-based approach – building on what children and young people can do and not what they can't do or 'have missed'.
- Ensuring that there is a focus on development of the skills for learning life and work.

For all academies a key area of focus will continue to be senior phase and SQA qualifications. Within the BGE the focus will be on HWB and reconnecting with school in preparation for a return following the easter break.

***Does the local authority anticipate providing additional activities, learning opportunities or wellbeing support to pupils? If so, please provide examples?***

#### **Educational Social Wellbeing: Holiday Recovery Programme**

- Plans are under development for each cluster in Aberdeenshire to be allocated funding to develop a programme for Summer 2021, October 2021 and Easter 2022 co-created with young people themselves from the Pupil Participation

Forum, Aberdeenshire Youth Council and our local MSYPs and other youth groups operating in each cluster.

- Each programme would require to be rooted in the principles of GIRFEC and would require to have the wellbeing of young people at its very core.
- Each programme would be cross-ECS and involve CLD, school, Children's Services and LLA as well as partners from the voluntary and private sectors. The programme would be coordinated and led at a local, cluster level. Young people and parents/carers should also be involved in this coordination.
- Funding would be made available to each cluster and there will be an additional weighting given to clusters serving areas of greater disadvantage. Locally, this funding can be topped up through use of any additional budgets which local groups/schools may have access to, including PEF, DSM carry-forwards and other team budgets which may be available.
- Programmes developed would be targeted at those who would benefit from them most of all based on local knowledge of individual young people, families and community needs.
- The main focus would be on mental, physical and emotional health and wellbeing. However, in Easter 2022, clusters may opt to arrange some "masterclass" interventions ahead of the SQA 2022 examination diet. Some of this could, of course, be done virtually and be done on an Aberdeenshire-wide basis and further discussions with ASHTA will be required around this.
- Local leadership will be essential in developing an appropriate offer to our young people, but there will be designated service manager/QIM who will maintain strategic oversight of the programme development, implementation and evaluation and will report back to the ECS Leadership Team on progress and impact.

Active Schools have been offering online content to support children in lockdown. This has covered various physical activities that can be done virtually including dance, fun fitness, football & virtual fun runs. Schools have also been using this content for PE lessons and to support children's well-being. Online training has been offered to teachers and wider council staff on activities such as indoor curling, and this has been well received.

Active Schools is also supporting outdoor sport & physical activity blended learning programme opportunities as additional support for schools under current guidance. We will also be restarting regular Active Schools extra-curricular activities under evolving guidance.

Live Life Aberdeenshire are providing a range of outdoor activities to Key Worker pupils across Aberdeenshire for the 3 weeks leading up to the Easter holidays to support current programming in schools. The provision offers an exciting offer including Roller Ski delivered by Huntly Nordic and Outdoor Centre Staff, Orienteering delivered by the Outdoor and Active Schools Teams, Bike Track and Climbing Wall delivered by the Outdoor Team.

Support can be available beyond the Easter holidays for schools on request.