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|  | Date | 25 November 2021 |
|  |  |  |

Dear Colleague

**FREE E-SGOIL OFFER FOR BGE PRIMARY INTERRUPTED LEARNERS**

As part of the National e-Learning Offer, e-Sgoil is looking to further develop its provision for learners who have disengaged from their own school setting. The i-Sgoil model has operated successfully as a pilot across the Northern Alliance over the past 18 months focussing on Senior Phase interrupted learners.

The next phase of i-Sgoil will again focus on learners within the Northern Alliance area, however we are now in a position to extend the offer for primary places only to learners across Scotland. There will be no charge to schools or local authorities wishing to participate.

For the purposes of this provision, an interrupted learner is defined as a young person who meets the three criteria below:

• has been unable to engage with their local school for a minimum of three months

• has not responded positively to alternative strategies for a return to school (e.g. phased return/reduced timetable)

• has either

o an education Child Plan (CP) or a Coordinated Support Plan (CSP)

o a CP/CSP in development

o involvement with Integrated Services

OR could be described as a young person:

• who has disengaged during the COVID-19 pandemic, for example due to physical or mental health issues

I would ask that you bring this offer to the attention of Head Teachers and other key staff within your local authority who can then initiate the application process by completing [this online form](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKTv1ztCAQoFKjN1RCZikjKFUM0taMVpMTzlJWVRMRVNBSEVGNU5aUlEyMy4u). We anticipate there to be high demand for this provision and as such are unable to guarantee that each application will be successful.

It is important to note that i-Sgoil is not operating as a school. Each learner will remain on their own school role, with i-Sgoil acting as a service working closely alongside each learner’s school. This provision is designed to provide young people with a pathway which would ultimately see them returning fulltime to their own school. Schools and local authorities are asked to ensure that any learners nominated for this provision have all necessary IT equipment to allow for them to participate.

A list of FAQs giving further details of the provision is attached and can be circulated to all interested parties. Nutshell overview guides have also been produced for both learners and parents which can be accessed and shared using the links below.

* [Learner nutshell guide](https://e-sgoil.com/media/1820/isgoil_nutshell-learners.pdf)
* [Parent/carer nutshell guide](https://e-sgoil.com/media/1819/isgoil_nutshell-parents.pdf)

The application process is now open and we ask that applications are submitted before 14th January 2022. Should you have any questions or wish to talk through things in more detail, please make contact using the details above.

Yours sincerely



Steven Graham

Depute Head Teacher e-Sgoil

Department of Education & Children’s Services



**October 2021 i-Sgoil Evaluation Highlights**

***“It's a great way to continue learning when you can't go to school, and it's fun meeting people from all over Scotland.”*** – i-Sgoil learner

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| **How are you enjoying i-Sgoil lessons so far?** |  |
| **How are you progressing with your learning through i-Sgoil?** |  |

**i-Sgoil FAQs**

## What is i-Sgoil?

i-Sgoil is an online education service which enables young people whose learning has been interrupted through ill health or other factors to continue with their education.

## Is i-Sgoil a school?

i-Sgoil is not a school in the traditional sense. Learners remain on their own school role for as long as they are engaged with i-Sgoil. i-Sgoil works in partnership with each learner’s school.

## How is i-Sgoil funded

i-Sgoil is part of the National e-Learning Offer for session 2021-22 and, as such, there will be no cost to schools.

## Who should be referred to this service?

This service is for any primary interrupted learner who is willing to engage and:

* has been unable to engage with their local school for a minimum of three months
* has not responded positively to alternative strategies for a return to school (e.g. phased return/reduced timetable)
* has either
  + an education Child Plan (CP) or a Coordinated Support Plan (CSP)
  + a CP/CSP in development
  + involvement with Integrated Services

OR could be described as a young person:

* who has disengaged during the COVID-19 pandemic, for example due to physical or mental health issues

## How are learners referred to this service?

The first stage of the referral process is for a school key contact to complete an [online form](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKTv1ztCAQoFKjN1RCZikjKFUM0taMVpMTzlJWVRMRVNBSEVGNU5aUlEyMy4u) for the learner being referred.

## How will teaching be delivered?

Live, interactive lessons will be delivered online by specialist teachers through the Glow platform

## What does the timetable look like?

The primary provision will focus on literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing.

## Are learners expected to join the provision on a full-time basis?

An i-Sgoil timetable which best meets the needs of each learner can be agreed with the learner, school and parent/carer. For some this will be part time, whereas for others it will resemble a full-time timetable. There will be opportunities to review this throughout the year.

## When are the classes timetabled?

Classes are held at set periods through the week. Timings are broadly similar to normal school day hours, with a slightly later start to the day.

## How long will learners engage with i-Sgoil?

This will differ for each learner. The aim for most primary learners would be to see them disengage with i-Sgoil after an agreed period and be reintegrated back into their local school.

## What do learners need to have before they can join?

Learners will need access to a laptop/device, headset, webcam, connectivity and a suitable study space. Schools or local authorities are asked to confirm, as part of the referral process, that each learner has the necessary kit to enable them to join classes.

## Will learners be expected to speak and have their cameras switched on?

Learners will **not** be forced to speak or use their camera if they do not wish to. i-Sgoil is keen to remove barriers and anxiety triggers so as to allow for learners to re-engage with learning in a way they feel comfortable with. Over time, as learners become more confident, it may be that they feel ready to engage in a more vocal and visible manner.

## From where do learners attend classes?

Classes are held online and can be accessed from anywhere. The majority of i-Sgoil learners join lessons from their own homes.

## How big are i-Sgoil classes?

Classes are much smaller than in a regular school.

## How does i-Sgoil communicate with schools?

i-Sgoil’s Guidance Teacher will act as a bridge between i-Sgoil teachers and schools. The Guidance Teacher will liaise with schools at regular intervals and can input into meetings as required.

## How and when will progress reports be provided?

i-Sgoil will provide enhanced tracking and monitoring reports to schools on a regular basis.

## How is attendance tracked and reported upon?

An attendance spreadsheet will be shared with all schools allowing for a live attendance register to be accessed at any given time.

## Who is responsible for supporting learners?

Each school retains responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of its own learners. i-Sgoil’s Guidance Teacher will provide learners with regular support and work closely with schools to provide regular updates.

## What do learners have to say about i-Sgoil?

*‘I have enjoyed being able to learn from home and get the chance to be learning again’*

*‘Everyone in the class is out of school for some reason so nobody is different’*

*‘I think because there are only a few people in the class it feels like a comfortable environment.’*

*‘Go ahead and do it, just give it a chance!’*