

Head of Education: Linda McAulay-Griffiths

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**Our Ref:** LMCA/CC

**Date:** 17 November 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer,

I hope that this communication finds you and your families well.

I wished to write to you in response to the Scottish Government Tiered Approach and the announcement today that East Ayrshire Council will now be in Level 4.

We continue to be guided by the most recent guidance as undernoted:

**<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-reducing-the-risksin-schools/>**

The main changes that I would like to highlight to you are as follows, as we progress from level 3 to level 4.

- The level 4 advice is that children on the shielding list should not attend in person. However, there will be further consideration of how individualised risk assessments can be used to maximise school attendance, and remove barriers to access to regulated childcare services, for children who continue to shield during Level 4 restrictions. It is expected that these should be informed by the secondary care (hospital) clinical team caring for the child or young person.
- Due to our being in level 4, face coverings should continue to be worn by pupils and staff in the senior phase (s4-6) in classrooms, subject to the existing exemptions
- Physical education within school settings should once more only take place outdoors. Schools will consider what types of activity and clothing may be most appropriate in view of weather conditions.
- The provision of non-essential activities or clubs outside the usual school timetable will cease immediately. This does not include regulated childcare operating from school premises
- Face coverings should be worn by all visitors to schools/ ECCs and also outside at pick-up and drop-off times whenever on school/ECC premises, even outside.
- Our staff continue have to wear face coverings in communal areas such as corridors, etc
- Our staff also have to wear face coverings in schools when in close contact with your children and other staff.

Please know that we absolutely appreciate the levels of concern and anxiety as COVID-19 continues to affect and please know that we will do all that we can to support your young people at this time, and with the holiday at Christmas ahead, let us all work together to ensure that we collectively reduce the incidence of this cruel virus.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linda McAulay-Griffiths', with a small flourish at the end.

LINDA McAULAY-GRIFFITHS  
**Head of Education**