

EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES & ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Education, Communities & Organisational Development

Moray Council

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Dear Parent/Carer

The festive period is getting closer and so we are looking once again at our guidance for activities and events for this time of year.

We continue to be guided by Scottish Government advice and guidance and although disappointing that large groups indoors are not allowed at this time, schools and nurseries will continue to come up with creative ideas to ensure that pupils and their families can still enjoy Christmas, albeit differently to non-pandemic times.

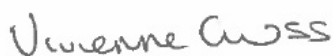
The guidance and rules for society differ greatly to that for schools and nurseries and we know that this is frustrating for all however we have a large number of non-vaccinated children and young people in our buildings and so mitigations are increased due to the increased risks which go along with this. In addition to this we are still dealing with a growing number of positive Covid-19 cases which is impacting on a number of schools/settings at this time.

For clarity – the advice, based on Scottish Government current guidance is:

- Schools/nurseries can arrange indoor events for internal audience and participants ie staff and pupils providing the participants/audience group numbers are kept low
- There will be no year group events in schools (due to numbers) – primary schools and nurseries may have small group or class events for pupils and staff as long as mitigations are in place
- Parental/community audiences/participants of indoor events and activities are not permissible within the current guidelines
- Parental/community audiences/participants of outdoor events and activities are currently permissible following the current guidance
- Class/school trips to pantomimes, are permissible following mitigations set out in the current guidance

We are not alone as a Council having to implement these rules and we had hoped that things may be different this year, unfortunately not. Please be assured that as soon as guidance changes, we will update our advice to you all as we are allowed to decrease mitigations. We thank you for your ongoing patience, support and understanding that this is out with our control and only necessary due to having a large number of unvaccinated children.

Yours sincerely



Vivienne Cross
Head of Education (Chief Education Officer)