

COMMUNITIES & EDUCATION DIRECTORATE
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North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

Your Ref: Our Ref: CA/AMcC/LB

If telephoning please call: 01294 324416

5 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Phased Return to In-School Learning (Phase 2 – from 15 March)

On 2 March 2021, the First Minister's announced to parliament the Scottish Government's plans for a further phase of the return to school for children and young people.

We are now able to set out in general terms the next steps in the phased return to in-school learning in North Ayrshire from 15 March 2021.

Our school have been working to produce plans and each Head Teacher will communicate with you directly in the coming days.

Primary Schools: From 15 March, in addition to Primary 1-3, Primary 4-7 pupils will also return to school on a full-time basis. As before, there may be staggered start and finish times to reduce congestion and ensure that we are able to manage the flow in and out of school in line with current health and safety guidance. As such, we would continue to ask that, if possible, only one parent/carer comes to the school/centre at drop off and pick up times and would ask for your ongoing support in ensuring that you maintain 2m physical distancing with other parents at the school gates.

Secondary Schools: It is anticipated that pupils in S1 to S6 will return to face-to-face education on a part-time basis from 15 March. Priority will be placed on ensuring that senior phase pupils have enhanced opportunities to access in-school learning as they continue to work towards national qualifications. S1-S3 pupils will also be invited to participate in some in-school learning each week in the two and a half weeks before the Easter holidays.

The specific arrangements in place will vary from school to school and will be informed by the physical capacity and configuration of our school buildings and transport arrangements for each school, given that 2-metre distancing in school and 1 metre distancing on school transport is a required mitigation.

When children and young people are not in school, remote learning will continue to be available to them in the range of ways already in place across our schools.

On their return all pupils, S1 to S6 will require to wear face coverings and to follow physical distancing guidance. The 2-metre physical distancing arrangements will now apply to all pupils and staff in the school buildings.

We all have a responsibility to ensure that we keep virus transmission at a low level throughout our communities. The FACTS advice continues to be essential, and we ask that you remind your children and young people of the importance of compliance with the health and safety measures in place in our schools. Your ongoing cooperation and support in this area is much appreciated.

ASN Schools: A phased return of all pupils has already commenced and the Head Teachers of each of our ASN schools will be in touch to continue this approach.

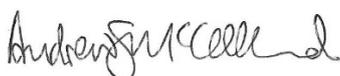
Arrangements for children of key workers / vulnerable children: In secondary schools, we will continue to offer a childcare service. For key workers the principle remains that, in line with government advice, this facility is only to be used in exceptional circumstances, on days where families have no alternative option.

Transport: All secondary schools are liaising with North Ayrshire Transport Hub to ensure that, on the days they will be attending school, pupils eligible for school transport can be accommodated safely and in line with Scottish Government Guidance on the transportation of pupils.

We are delighted to be able to welcome our children and young people back to school and our staff will be pleased to see them back in their classes and enjoying seeing each other again.

As we said previously, each Head Teacher will be in touch very soon with the finer detail for each school and child or young person.

Yours sincerely



Andrew McClelland
Head of Service (Education)



Caroline Amos
Head of Service (Education)

