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Parent/Carer

Dear Parent/Carer

In light of the move to the delay phase of managing the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in the UK, the Council continues to meet regularly and plan for the impact of the pandemic in Renfrewshire.

The Scottish Government and the NHS have confirmed that at this stage all schools and early years' establishments will remain open and we will seek to ensure continuity of learning. This will be kept under regular review.

The Council continues to review the national guidance being issued, and as a result has taken decisions in relation to schools and early years centres. While we recognise that some of these decisions may cause inconvenience and disappointment, they have been taken in the best interest of all.

### **School Trips**

Guidance has been issued that all overseas education trips for children under the age of 18 should be cancelled. This is because trip leaders would face significant challenges in making arrangements to ensure children's welfare, should anyone be required to self-isolate.

The following link is the national travel guidance for the education sector, which the Council is implementing and extending:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/covid-19-travel-guidance-for-the-education-sector](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/covid-19-travel-guidance-for-the-education-sector).

I am also advising all Renfrewshire schools to cancel any UK based residential school trips and day trips planned to take place from now until the end of the school Easter holidays. Often residential trips are to remote areas or a significant distance from school and home localities and as with overseas trips, trip leaders may face significant challenges in relation to coronavirus (COVID-19). Trips taking place thereafter will be reviewed as per national advice.

We understand that this will have implications for children and their families and understand this may cause disappointment. Each school will contact those that are directly affected and will be able to advise on the specific arrangements in relation to any financial implications as a consequence and to alternative activities that might be available.

## School and Education Events

There are also a number of school events taking place in the coming weeks in the run up to the Easter holidays. Again, in response to reducing the risk in relation to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, these events will also be cancelled. This includes all school performances such as pantomimes, plays, choir recitals and concerts.

## Parents' Evenings

In line with this approach, all school parents' evenings scheduled from now to the school Easter holidays will also be cancelled. I have asked schools to look at alternative methods of providing parents with updates on your child's progress and schools will share the local arrangements that they put in place with their own school communities.

Finally, we are providing regular updates through our Renfrewshire Council website [www.renfrewshire.gov.uk](http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk) along with our social media channels and you can also refer to NHS Inform website [www.nhsinform.scot](http://www.nhsinform.scot) for further medical guidance.

I would like to thank you in advance for your understanding in relation to these new measures and for your continued co-operation and support in relation to the temporary measures in place to effectively manage coronavirus (COVID-19) in our communities.

Yours sincerely



Steven Quinn  
Director of Children's Services