

Parent Council Liaison Meeting via Skype

Tuesday, 11th June 2020 – 6.30pm – 8pm

1.	Welcome, Introduction and Apologies	Chair
<p>The meeting was chaired by Steven Quinn, Director of Children's Services.</p> <p>The meeting was attended by 38 Parent Council Representatives via Skype.</p> <p>In attendance was Julie Calder, Head of Service, CS.</p>		
2.	Previous minute and matters arising	Steven Quinn
<p>There were no matters arising and the minutes were approved.</p>		
3.	Pupils returning to school in August to a blended model of learning (in school and at home)	Steven Quinn
<p>Letter to all parents/carers in Renfrewshire will be sent via a text message with a link tomorrow. Schools will send this out.</p> <p>A summary of where we are to date was given -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Head Teachers started returning to own schools week beginning 1st June• Health & Safety and Environment & Infrastructure teams will be working together to ensure the schools are ready to return• Hubs closed down 8th June – children of key workers moved back to their own school 9th June• 15th and 22nd June – information on transition activities for P1 & P7• Schools close on Friday 26th June• 29th June - summer childcare takes begins• Letters to parents/carers sent will be sent tomorrow 12th June 2020• 22nd June – schools to give further details on what days children will attend school• Schools will return for pupils on Wednesday, 12th August on a phased return• Teachers and support staff will return before this date• All children will return on first week, but the pattern will be different thereafter – the following week the children will be at school on their allocated days <p>Determining models, there are certain aspects to take into consideration, half the children cannot be accommodated for a 30 children classroom. Around 9/10/11 children for example can only be accommodated with 3 teachers in place for the 30 children.</p> <p>Early years and early learning centres/classes</p> <p>These are a little bit further behind – advice and guidance hasn't been published in the same detail. Further advice will be given on Monday which will focus on outdoor learning, maximising capacity, physical distancing (will not be the same – the children can't physically distance), more information about hygiene and bubbles of children and how they will work with staff. We will be able to offer half</p>		

days or full days over the course of the week, but not full time. We will not be in a position to deliver 1140 hours at this time. Where possible we will try to get sibling in on same days across nursery and primary.

Primary schools

The model has been developed where half of the children will come into school on a Monday and Tuesday and the other half will attend on a Thursday and Friday. Wednesdays will be used to allow all teachers to have their contractual non class contact time and to prepare lessons and support pupils with remote learning. Enhanced cleaning will also take place. There will be smaller class sizes and teachers/support staff will work more intensely with children and appropriate tasks will be set to be done at home. There will be some level of support for remote learning but this will not necessarily be by their class teacher.

Head Teachers are now working on the groupings. Every school will send out further details on the 22nd June 2020 detailing the day(s) that your child will come to school. Schools will work with the parents to make every effort to try and accommodate parents but this will not always be possible.

Secondary schools

The model for secondary schools is more complex because of timetabling constraints. Children normally move from class to class every 50 mins and we want to try and reduce this to an absolute minimal. The pattern of days that pupils will attend may vary but they will all receive -

- 10 blocks of 2.5 hours over a two week period
- 5 days over a course of 2 weeks – depending on layout/transport

Schools will send out further details to parents/carers on 22nd June 2020.

Cleaners will be in school all day, every day and enhanced cleaning at weekends. All classrooms will be supplied with a cleaning caddy and children will be expected to wipe their own desk/surface before leaving.

4. Childcare	Steven Quinn
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Essential childcare for key workers

We must follow government guidance and meet the demands of essential key workers, this can only be made available to families who have exhausted all other alternatives and where both parents are key workers and unable to work from home.

Summer childcare

The process is now open for summer childcare and parents/carers must meet the criteria. Childcare provision for families of key workers will be available from hubs which will be established in 3 geographical areas – Paisley / Renfrew / Johnstone.

Childcare in August

Childcare for children of key workers will be made available in line with government advice. This will be on the days that children are not in school. Further detail along with an application will be available over the summer. Alternative venues are being looked as it will not be possible for this to take place in school buildings.

5.	Transport	Steven Quinn
<p>Continuing to work with SPT to understand and agree safe protocols. Further updates as soon as we can. Where able, parents may be invited, where they are able, to take their children to school. Parents/carers to apply for transport as normal.</p>		
6.	NPFS Update	David MacDonald
<p>David thanked Steven and staff.</p> <p>David to send the link from the First Minister Q&As to PC Chairs.</p>		
7.	Summary of Questions	
<p>Question: P7 still shielding – will they miss transition – any opportunity for children shielding to have transition activities over the summer? No formal mechanism in place as teachers on holiday at this period – may be opportunity for those people to ask Head Teachers – maybe virtual – individual school decision. There will also be further plans for an enhanced transition for some pupils when they return in August</p> <p>Question: Will teachers work from home on Wednesday’s? Yes, teachers may work from home on the Wednesday but they may also work in their school. There will be a management presence in schools on a Wednesday</p> <p>Question: Just to clarify - the 2 days per child is across all Renfrewshire schools regardless of capacity / pupil roll? So uniformity of provision in all schools? All Renfrewshire Council Primary schools will be 2 days each.</p> <p>Question: Will teachers be from their own schools? Yes. With additional teachers recruited to supplement existing staff teams where necessary.</p> <p>Question: Will support to remote learning be provided by A teacher (accepting that's not the class teacher), and are teacher numbers adequate to cover the additional numbers required? There will not be the same level of support as most teachers will be teaching their classes - level of support from teachers that are shielding or extremely clinically vulnerable and working from home will be available. Children will have high level of support on the days they are at school.</p> <p>Question: School work for the 3 days not at school? Teachers will continually assess them and give them set work.</p> <p>Question: Locally the ASN teachers had been reduced by 65% for August return. High concern for ASN children. Is this a wider decision or one that's likely been made locally? Also, will it be increased if the children are struggling? This is not the case – there has been no reduction. Happy to have a further conversation to confirm this if necessary.</p> <p>Question: How can schools ensure that vulnerable children remain in contact / check-in on a week to week basis? Are we able to ensure that no-one falls through the gap between teaching/attendance at school on a week to week basis? All children should be in school every week – continually assess children’s learning. The model proposed ensures there is contact with all children on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>Question: Do parents have the option of not sending their children back if they feel it isn't safe? We will work with parents to gain their confidence but there is a statutory requirement for children to go to school. Nevertheless the priority will be to work in partnership with parents to</p>		

support their child in the best way possible.

Question: The risk assessments for placements of desks, were the mobility and visual, hearing needs of the children taken into account re numbers of desks in the classrooms?

Risk Assessments have been carried out and will continually be updated to ensure the needs of all children are met.

Question: Do you know if aftercare in community centres will be running? Looking at after school care at community centres and working with after school care providers, we recognise the importance and will be working with them to get them back up and running.

Question: What is protocol if a confirmed case of COVID happens for a child/staff member? Does the whole group bubble need to stay away for 14 days? There will be a designated area where children can go to if there is a suspected case due to a child displaying symptoms., Thereafter, we will follow the government advice including the procedures to be followed for test, trace and isolate.

Question: Will children in secondary stay in the one class? Where possible movement will be minimised and in most cases teachers will come into classroom and children will not move from class to class. However, there will need to be some movement.

Question: How many children will be in a class? Around 10/11/12 children would be a usual number safely in one class – cannot get half classes. Ultimately, it is dependent on the size of the class and these differ depending on the age and layout of the school.

Question: Will there be breaks in between blocks as 2 and a half hours of a subject is very intense and potentially overwhelming? Teachers will use own initiative and there will be a break within this time. Children will be encouraged to go throughout the day to the toilet as there will be no normal break in the morning.

Question: In respect of the children in Riverbrae where the school cover early years throughout to high school. Will Riverbrae just follow the primary format? We will try follow same format as primary/secondary although some things may be different. Schools will work with parents and clarify. We understand that Riverbrae will need to plan to meet the needs of their school community.

Question: Will pupils in secondary school be allowed out at lunchtime? We don't have the right to stop them leaving the school at lunchtime, but we would encourage them to stay in school. We will need to follow the appropriate guidance.

Question: How will PE subject work? We are working on principle that this will work as normal, just need to adjust and overcome any challenges. It will still be an option.

Question: Is there a plan for an induction/mental health support/guidance/assemblies to provide emotional support etc on pupil return - assume pupils are not going straight into academic learning? This is our greatest priority and all schools are working on a recovery curriculum to support children when they return.

Question: Has consideration been given to children with allergies re cleaning their own areas - will COSHH info be provided? Parents/Carers to make school aware of any allergies. E&I will be providing guidance on cleaning equipment. Children will not to be put in any danger and schools will have the most up to date information.

Question: Do you think attainment levels will be maintained? In time, Yes, I think attainment levels will be attained. That is certainly our focus and we want to ensure we do everything possible to make sure our children are not disadvantaged.

Question: Summer childcare - will the hours covered only be 9-3pm? Any option to extend early drop off and late pick up? The general hours will be 9-3 but where there is a significant

barrier we will try to support parents.

Question: Our PC has suggested that cycling to school should be promoted? Yes, I agree that that would be a good initiative to support.

Question: What hours will children be in school? There will be staggered start and finish times and parents/carers will be asked to drop children off at school gates. Letter being sent out on 22nd June will explain this in more detail.

Question: Parents will need to have confidence – campaign? WE have communicated to parents throughout and will continue to do so. We recognise the importance of building the confidence of school communities.

Date of next meeting: TBC