**Parent Council Liaison Meeting via Skype**

**Thursday, 6th August 2020 – 6.00pm – 7.30pm**

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| **1.** | **Welcome, Introduction and Apologies** | | | **Chair Steven Quinn** |
| The meeting was chaired by Steven Quinn, Director of Children’s Services.  The meeting was attended by 33 Parent Council Representatives via Skype, including David McDonald, who represents Renfrewshire on National Parent Forum of Scotland (NPFS)  In attendance was Julie Calder, Head of Service (Curriculum and Quality), Children’s Services;  Cllr Jim Paterson, Convener Education and Children’s Services Policy Board, and;  Gordon McKinlay, Head of Schools, Children’s Services.  Minutes taken by Jamie Gardyne, Chief Executive’s Services | | | | |
| **2.** | **Previous minute and matters arising** | | | **Steven Quinn** |
| There were no matters arising and the minutes were approved.  Cllr Paterson welcomed attendees. | | | | |
| **3.** | **School Full Time Return** | | | **Steven Quinn** |
| Communication was sent out parents/carers re school return on Friday 31st July. schools are supplementing this with additional information.  National guidance was issued on Thursday 30th July and supplemented with Renfrewshire-specific guidance to all schools. Extensive collaboration is ongoing with Head Teachers and other services to finalise implementation.  Robust health and hygiene policies have been established and will be implemented on school return. This includes the logistics of the school day and rigorous cleaning. Pupils will be expected to respect and adhere to these measures.  Monday 17th August – out of school care providers will be able to start if they are able to. Some challenges to overcome to accommodate breakfast clubs. Work ongoing to allow this to begin as soon as reasonable. | | | | |
| **4.** | **SQA** | | | **Steven Quinn** |
| Congratulations extended to young people for their achievements in challenging circumstances. It is unfortunate they did not have the opportunity to sit exams as expected. Where young people have not received the grade that was expected schools, where they meet the criteria, will be able to appeal the grades awarded. Priority appeals are progressed where a young person is dependent on an improved grade for example, entry into university. This must be communicated to schools by Friday 14th August. All other pupils have more time to do so.  Nationally, overall results are better than they have ever been. However, it is accepted that there are young people who have not achieved what they hoped for. This is an emotive subject, but the appeals process will be followed by all schools to ensure our young people get the best chance to receive the grades that their work, commitment and effort merited.  David MacDonald (NPFS) - plenty of information shared and documents published. Attention is on attainment gap. Next meeting there may be more questions. | | | | |
| **5.** | | **Summary of Questions** | **Steven Quinn** | |
| **Hygiene, PPE & Safety**  **1 Is there a reason why the additional cleaning staff roles being advertised are for a 6 month contract? https://www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/councils/renfrewshire-council/jobs/cleaner-part-time-temporary-x27-posts-192929 Kirklandneuk**  Contracts will be extended if necessary. Current advertisements will meet the initial requirement.  **2 The guidance is clear that if staff or pupils feel they want to wear a face cover that this will be supported. Will this be made clear to parents and pupils so they are able to make decisions about face coverings? Kirklandneuk**  Guidance states that children are not required to socially distance from each other or wear face masks. Parents should work with the school Headteacher if they feel they would like their child/children to wear face masks due to underlying health conditions and this will be accommodated.  **3 Will Renfrewshire council and individual schools make it clear to adults dropping off and picking up children and young people that they must maintain a 2 metre distance within the school grounds and school perimeter?**  **Kirklandneuk**  . We would ask parents/carers and the wider school community to act responsibly and set a good example. Headteachers, if necessary, will remind parents but it is not their responsibility to enforce guidance for adults. We would hope that everyone takes a responsibility and we work on this together.  **4 Should children be encouraged to sit with siblings or the children they normally sit beside in class? St John Bosco**  Children will be encouraged to sit in class groupings and not with siblings, as far as reasonably practical on home to school transport. There is no requirement for children to socially distance, but schools will encourage it where possible. The school bus is considered an extension of the school estate and a preferred option will be for siblings to sit together in these circumstances.  **5 What contingency plan do Renfrewshire council have if the school does come down with Covid, for example teachers going off sick with either covid symptoms or stress due to the nature of their job and due to their new remits” obviously with clusters in other parts of Scotland it would also be beneficial to ask to know if teachers are going to be tested and the frequency of testing if this is to happen.**  **St Peters PS**  If a school must close it won’t be the decision of RC – this is national level public health decision. The blended learning model can be utilised to support remote learning at home. If teachers are sick, there is in the region of 40 teachers for primary and approximately 28 teachers in secondary that can be re-deployed to support staff absence. In addition, there are also permanent supply staff who will support absence.  **6 Has there been any consideration of investment in temperature checks or similar provisions at schools to keep kids and staff safe and well and maintain full time schooling. St Charles Park Mains HS**  Health and safety colleagues have investigated the best way to ensure those who are symptomatic are supported effectively. Evidence suggests temperature checks are not accurate and therefore there is no plan to utilise this. Evidence will be monitored and if this changes action will be taken.  **7 What steps will be taken to ensure social distancing particularly amongst senior phase pupils? Park Mains HS**  Guidance states physical distancing is not a requirement in school but it should be encouraged where possible. This will be done in secondary schools. Pupils will be informed of this during their induction. Where possible, class sizes will be reduced. Pupils will be encouraged to maintain physical distancing at break times and lunch. All measures will be in accordance with guidance.  **8 Will Renfrewshire be encouraging pupils to use face coverings? Park Mains HS**  Not deemed necessary but it will be accommodated.  **Risk Assessments**  **9 If covid 19 numbers rise within Renfrewshire does council have the ability/decision to close individual schools (or is this centrally by Scot Gov) ? St James (Paisley)**  Renfrewshire Council will not decide this. Decision will be via Public Health Scotland.  **10 Do parents still have the choice to send kids back to school? I have one family who's child spends times between 2 house holds and one parents has heart conditions and one child with chest problems and they're worried for their health.**  **St Peters PS**  There is a presumption that all children and young people will return to school as normal at the start of the new session unless they get specific health advise which indicates otherwise.  **11 Children that have been shielding will they be taken into account with any risk assessments being carried out with regards to PPE? St Peters PS**  Responsibility sits with the parent. Advice should come from health professional and relayed to school staff. This allows the school to implement measures to support that young person where necessary.  **12 Why is P5/P6 not getting phased in? St Peters PS**  They are but they are the final group. No perfect model and therefore it is accepted that one group of children will need to be the final group to come to school. Primary 1 are priority as it is a significant transition. Primary 7 will require the least support and are on hand to support the P1s. Primaries 2 & 3 and 4 will arrive on Thursday and be supported throughout the day with primary 5 & 6 joining their peers on Friday.  **13 Also if there were to be an outbreak how will parents be notified (other than the track and trace set up), would the council respond also? St Peters PS**  Yes, notified through Public Health Scotland. All school will also notify if it must close. Individual cases may not result in parents being notified. Schools will follow public health advice.    **Additional Support for Learning**  **14 For pupils going into year 4 with ASN’s - specifically autism - exactly how will the restrictions on socially distancing between teacher and pupil impact on the close learning relationship between ASN pupil and support teacher during a lesson? If the support teacher cannot sit beside the pupil during the lesson, what provision is being made to ensure that each ASN pupil is being fully supported within the lesson? Park Mains HS, Teaching Staff**  Additional support needs are a focus and priority. Schools have been asked to take cognisance of the challenges that may be perceived by young people with additional support needs. Staff that work with pupils with specific needs will have access to PPE if this is necessary to ensure enough support for individual pupils. Parents should relay specific concerns or needs to school staff.  **15 Can you give an update on the recruitment of the additional support and teaching staff, when will they be in post? What average additional support is each school likely to benefit from? Kirklandneuk**  There are a number of factors that will determine the additional staffing in schools such as the size of the school and the number of staff who are absent. A significant number of additional staff have been recruited to support schools this year.  **16 How will the extra money for teachers will be used? How will that translate logistically to our kids getting benefit of it? Extra classes, supported study type scenario?? Park Mains HS**  Resource to support additional teachers has been allocated to all schools based on factors described above. Additional teachers will be used in a variety of ways including supporting small groups and creating additional classes.  **Emotional / wellbeing support**  **17 Previously the meeting discussed programmes developed by Renfrewshire Educational Psychologists which would inform the mental health and wellbeing of children returning to the school campus after such a considerable break. Is there any update to this programme (this included some tools for self development by staff), how will it be delivered and what does it look like?**  **Gryffe HS**  Skills for Recovery developed in partnership with Educational Psychology Team. This is a new resource designed to be delivered over 6 weeks for secondary pupils and senior primary pupils. There will be activities for parents/carers to work through with young people. This should launch next week and will be visible on social media.  **Home to School transport**  **18 At the last meeting Steven had indicated that parents would be encouraged, where possible to drive their children to school instead of using the school transport. This was of course to allow for maximum social distancing on the buses and I know the most recent announcement states that they will now not be expected to socially distance on the school bus or wear masks.**  **Although we appreciate that children 11 and under are no longer required to social distance, older children are, and everyone is required to wear a mask on public transport in all other circumstances. Will we still be encouraged to use other transport methods if we can? In particular 'cycle to school' suggestions........St John Bosco Gryffe HS**  Home to school transport will be available. Children are still being encouraged to travel sustainably where possible. If pupils are being driven there could be increased congestion. Parents are asked to drive and park considerately around schools. Schools may employ local measures to mitigate this.  **19 The buses that our primary children use, have normally already been on another school run before they reach us...has this scenario been considered and will metal railings be cleaned down between these runs? St John Bosco Park Mains HS**  There are a small number of routes where buses are used in this way. The service is collaborating with SPT who oversee school transport. Cleaning measures will be utilised if a bus has been used for a previous school run.  **20 If schools are still going in at staggered entry/finish times will the lollipop people start earlier and finish later? St Peters PS**  School crossing patrollers will be placed in strategic positions but not all staff may be in place.  **Out of school activities**  **21 Will Parent Councils be able to hold events such as discos, parent council meetings etc within school buildings? St James (Paisley)**  At the moment it will not be possible to hold events like discos. Parent Council meetings may utilise digital means for the foreseeable period. There should be as few adults going into schools as possible.  **22 Do you anticipate that school outings/residential trips will be able to take place over the next school year? St James (Paisley)**  These are important for the school community. Our aspiration is for day activities to start reasonably quickly providing circumstances are settled. We would like to support the providers but only when safe to do so. Residential trips may be possible next year. Foreign trips are unlikely for the upcoming academic session. However, this will be dependent on advice from government.  **23 What is the criteria for breakfast clubs in Renfrewshire? We have an outside agency running the breakfast club at £5 per child from 8am. Whilst the cost is nothing to do with the council it allows many parents to make it to work on time including teachers. This morning we were given the news that the breakfast club will not be given a let. This has left many parents in a difficult situation at very short notice. Inchinnan**  Out of school care and private providers will be able to operate from Monday 17th August. They will be supported to operate as much as possible.  **Learning & Teaching**  **24** **If the Government feels it is necessary to use contingency plans of blended learning how quickly can this be put in place and what is in place to minimise disruption to children's learning? St James (Paisley)**  We are confident that, should we need to use it, our blended learning model can be implemented immediately.  The blended learning delivery model developed in May will provide the necessary support to our children and young people and will ensure continuity in learning should it be necessary to implement it  Each school has a business continuity plan which will detail their specific arrangements for remote/blended learning should this be necessary.  Centrally, we are in the process of developing a website that all pupils will be able to access, if required, with a focus on literacy and numeracy  If there should be any localised closure of schools, we can provide chrome books and Wi-Fi to support those who cannot access on-line learning.  **25 It may be fair to assume that a reasonable percentage of children/young people may require additional support, either short or long term to achieve their learning stages given their break from formal schooling. Will there be a formal assessment of each child/young persons learning level and a learning plan created? Will this be shared with parents?**  **Kirklandneuk**  Health and wellbeing are our highest priorities. Staff will engage with young people and families to ensure appropriate support is provided to ensure children and young people are ready to learn and supported as required. Established reporting procedures will be adopted.  **Additional questions asked during meeting:**  **What if a child shows symptoms?**  Guidance and procedures are in place in each school, informed by advice of Public Health Scotland. Parents will be contacted and responsibility for the parent to follow up as deemed appropriate by health professional.  **Are teachers required to wear face masks?**  Teachers are not required but if they choose to this will be accommodated.  **Will there be restrictions on movement?**  It will not be possible to restrict all movement in schools and especially secondary schools. However, schools are working hard to minimise movement where possible. For example, in secondary schools there will be double periods across the week to minimise movement of senior pupils. One-way systems will be utilised.  **Will childcare be available for parents whose children go back on different days?**  Unfortunately, no. We would ask parents to make their own arrangements to support the planned return.  **Is SPT also responsible for track & trace for drivers & guides on school buses ?** **Will bus staff also have access to testing ?**  This will be investigated.  *Post meeting note – the school transport contractor is responsible for their own staff. If a driver/escort tests positive they would contact their employer who in turn would alert SPT. SPT would keep us advised, in addition to Test and Protect notification.*  **Will external lets for example boys Brigade, scouts etc be able to use the schools?**  No. Priority is to open schools and keep them open. Only out of school care will be allowed to operate in within the school estate. We do, however, recognise the importance of the many groups who have lets in schools and will endeavour to get these up and running as soon as guidance allows and it is deemed safe.  **I assume child won't be allowed back till test results confirmed?**  It will be the parent/carer’s responsibility to adhere to medical guidance/instruction.  **Do you let public health know if a child has Been isolated so they can pick it up with the parents?**  Schools will follow the appropriate public health guidance . parents/carers must adhere to medical guidance/instruction and notify where required.  **We at Inchinnan have had a let declined for this (out of school care). So what can we tell parents in regards to this starting up as it’s a vital service for some?**  This will be investigated by Education staff  **Will this be made clear to parents about their responsibilities?**  Yes  **SQA Examination Results**  **Is it up to school to determine if they should appeal?**  No, it can come through dialogue between families and the school. However, an appeal can only be submitted where a child meets the criteria.  **Does it have to be a substantial difference in what estimate was and actual award?**  An appeal can be made where the estimated award was better than the actual award given. An appeal can result in a grade going down as well as up, although this occurs infrequently.  **Do schools have to give us detail of what they (grades they) estimated?**  Schools have been asked to provide this. Young people and parents are entitled to this information.   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **6.** | **Closing Comments** | Steven Quinn |   Steven Quinn thanked staff and parents for their support and asked for continued collaboration in the coming weeks as we support children young people back to school. | | | | |

**Date of next meeting: TBC - approximately three weeks into new term. Invites will be sent out.**