



From mountain to sea

Dear Parents and Carers

Following on from the statement from the Deputy First Minister, John Swinney yesterday, Thursday 19 March 2020 we are putting in place arrangements that ensure that vulnerable children and young people, and the children of key workers have continued access to all-age learning and childcare that allows you, their parents or carers, to participate in the national response to the Covid-19 virus outbreak.

Arrangements will be in place from Monday 23rd March 2020. In order to do this some educational settings will remain open for this purpose. Advice from the Scottish Government is to keep the openings of establishments to the minimum required in order to support virus control. These are the current arrangements; however, you will understand that this could be subject to change as the COVID19 situation progresses. It is anticipated these will be term time arrangements and the Easter Break will continue as normal.

We will also be working with private and third sector providers of childcare including childminders, to deliver childcare to key workers. You will be also able to access the nursery setting below at the primary school.

This plan is for the following three groups of Children and Young People in communities only therefore all other children should not attend

1. SQA pupils – who are contacted by schools and required to attend to complete coursework
2. Children with a statutory entitlement to Free School Meals
3. Children of key workers

Key Workers

The Scottish Government has advised that they are viewing key workers as those who work in posts which ensure that essential services can be delivered, or those who cover tasks within the local community that support the vulnerable and aid community resilience. A guide to the definition of a key worker is below:

Category 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and care workers directly supporting COVID response, and associated staff. • Health and Care workers supporting life threatening emergency work. • Health and Care workers supporting critical primary and community care provision. • Energy suppliers • Staff providing childcare/learning for other Category 1 staff.
Category 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All other Health and Care workers. • Pupil Sector workers providing emergency/critical welfare services (e.g Fire, Police, Prisons, Social Workers, etc). • Workers supporting the Critical National Infrastructure

Category 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All workers without whom there could be a significant impact on Scotland (but where the response to Covid-19, or the ability to perform essential tasks to keep the country running, would not be severely compromised)
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Children of key workers will be able to attend for childcare from 9am- 3pm. This is likely to be limited cover as we do not know the extent of our staff provision or the numbers of young people. We would stress that this is childcare and not regular teaching and learning. Pupils should be brought to main reception where we will take a register of young people. Both parents need to be key workers to qualify for child care provision.

Although closed Academy staff will liaise regarding SQA requirements and arrangements on Monday and then will notify individual pupils who are required to complete work. This will be at a date to be confirmed and may be in school or through digital learning. In the meantime, pupils should continue to work on the materials accessible on-line on Portlethen Academy's Glow page.

Meals will be available for young people who are eligible for statutory free school meals between 12.45 and 13.30pm. Young people who wish to access this service should not arrive any earlier than this, or stay any later, as there may not be staff here to supervise before and after these times. One Primary School per cluster will also be open for Early Years and Primary aged children who are eligible for income based free meals and children of keyworkers. For anybody who is entitled to a free school meal a pack lunch can be collected from Academies between 12 and 1pm each day. If your child/children have special dietary requirement please email their requirements to - [Special Diets to schoolmeals@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:specialdiets@schoolmeals@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) with pupil name, academy they will attend + dietary requirement

The list of schools that will be open for Free School Meals and Key Worker Childcare on Monday 23 March 2020 are:

CLUSTER	ACADEMY	PRIMARY SCHOOL
Aboyne	Aboyne Academy	Aboyne Primary School
Alford	Alford Academy	Alford Primary School
Banchory	Banchory Academy	Hill of Banchory School
Banff	Banff Academy	Banff Primary School
Ellon	Ellon Academy	Balmedie School
Fraserburgh	Fraserburgh Academy	St Andrews School
Huntly	Gordons School	Insch Primary School
Inverurie	Inverurie Academy	Uryside School
Kemnay	Kemnay Academy	Kintore School
Laurencekirk	Mearns Academy	Laurencekirk Primary School
Meldrum	Meldrum Academy	Meldrum Primary School
Mintlaw	Mintlaw Academy	Mintlaw School
Peterhead	Peterhead Academy	Dales Park School
Portlethen	Portlethen Academy	Hillside School
Stonehaven	Mackie Academy	Mill O' Forrest School
Turriff	Turriff Academy	Turriff Primary School
Westhill	Westhill Academy	Westhill Primary School

Any queries should be directed to the primary or academy on Monday morning.