

Scottish Government announces exams cancelled

For the first time ever school exams have been cancelled in Scotland.

But teaching, learning and support can continue with local flexibility.

Deputy First Minister John Swinney updated Parliament on the decision to close schools and confirmed that:

- the exam diet will not go ahead this year. The Scottish Qualifications Authority will put in place a certification model using coursework, teacher assessment of estimated grades and prior attainment
- local authorities are taking measures to protect vulnerable children who rely on schools for hot meals or a safe and supportive environment
- children of key workers will have continuing access to learning or childcare

BREAKING: [@JohnSwinney](#) tells MSPs that school exams will not go ahead as a result of [#coronavirus](#) outbreak – a certification model will be based on coursework, assessment of estimated grades and prior attainment <https://t.co/Y60RxL2Waa> pic.twitter.com/1NPjS2b3Uc

– BBC Scotland News (@BBCScotlandNews) [March 19, 2020](#)

Mr Swinney said: “My priorities are to ensure the health and wellbeing of our children, young people and staff, and to maintain teaching and learning wherever this is possible,

guided by the advice of the Chief Medical Officer and public health experts.

“Teaching, learning and support will continue – albeit in different ways for different groups of children. For the majority, this will be through distance learning and online learning, with different forms of on-going contact with teachers rather than in-school, face-to-face. Teachers and other staff who are well will continue to be working.

“For vulnerable children and those who have parents or carers employed as key workers, local authorities are developing approaches to support them. We will not cut adrift vulnerable young people who often rely on school life for hot meals or for a safe, nurturing and supportive environment.

“Parents are not expected to be a teacher or to recreate the school day – your school will be giving you some resources and suggestions as your first port of call.

“It is a measure of the gravity of the challenge we now face that the exams will not go ahead this year. With the support of the wider education system, a credible certification model can be put in place in the that can command confidence in the absence of the exam diet – to ensure that young people in our schools and colleges who through no fault of their own are unable to sit exams, are not disadvantaged.”