

# Edinburgh gets ready to go back to school next week

In Edinburgh there will be a phased return to the classroom starting from next week.

On Monday and Tuesday staff will be in schools preparing to welcome pupils back from Wednesday 12 August 2020 onwards.

Pupils will then return in a gradual way for the remainder of the week and all pupils will require to be at school from Monday 17 August onwards.

Arrangements for all primary, secondary and special schools are outlined in [a letter](#) from the Executive Director of Communities and Families, Alistair Gaw, that was issued to parents this morning (Wednesday 5 August).

The letter is the latest in a [series of updates](#) for parents over the summer holidays which has included a series of Frequently Asked Questions and Answers and minutes from two meetings of the Consultative Committee With Parents including one on Monday night.

The latest '[Delivery Plan](#)' outlining the steps that have been taken to ensure schools can reopen safely next week will be discussed by Councillors on the Policy and Sustainability Committee tomorrow (Thursday 6 August).

The 'Delivery Plan' contains details on areas such as: hygiene, health and safety, transition support for children with Additional Support Needs, cleaning, ventilation, physical distancing measures, health and wellbeing, equity, raising

attainment, school meals and breakfast/after school clubs.

It also includes arrangements for the detailed contingency plans the Council is putting in place if the virus is not suppressed and schools have to resort to 50% attendance with the blended learning model in place.

In addition, funding announcements by the Scottish Government mean the Council will be able to recruit around 100 newly qualified teachers and purchase over 2,000 digital devices for those pupils most in need.

Councillor Ian Perry, Education Convener, said: "One of the highest priorities for the Council is ensuring that pupils and staff return to the safest possible environment next week. We're doing this by following the most up to date Government and Health Protection Scotland advice and putting in place strict hygiene measures to keep everyone safe.

"Having a phased reopening over the first three days ensures pupils will have time to familiarise themselves with the new arrangements in their schools. Our teaching staff and other Council teams have been working tirelessly in getting schools ready for reopening next week and I want to thank them for all their tireless efforts in achieving this.

"It is also reassuring to know that we have robust contingency plans should they be required. We really hope they aren't needed but I'm confident these detailed plans demonstrate our commitment to ensuring the best teaching and learning for all pupils across the whole city."

Cllr Alison Dickie, Education Vice Convener, said: "I know parents will be relieved to finally see our young people returning to school next week. Everyone has been working really hard to achieve the goal of getting every child and young person back to school where they belong and a phased return means they will be able to get used to the new arrangements after such a long absence.

“There’s no doubt that these past five months have been the most challenging periods ever for the world of education. It’s put a huge strain on both our teaching staff and families struggling at home so an enormous amount of praise must go to everyone who has pulled together in these difficult times – most of all to the children and young people across the city who have shown such amazing resilience and courage in these difficult times.”

“I also want to reassure parents that when learning and teaching starts again next Wednesday we are doing everything we can to make sure the principles of consistency and equity are at the heart of our plans.”

The [Scottish Government guidance](#) on preparing for the start of the new school term is available on their website.