

## About support for staff

Last updated: 22 June 2020

**This section covers support that will be provided for staff working in Early Learning and Childcare and school settings.**

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[Will external professionals \(eg speech therapists or counsellors\) still be able to use the school for 1 to 1 sessions?](#)

**Will there be additional staff brought in to support learning and teaching? Has consideration been given to bringing in student/probationer teachers earlier to help with this?**

We will make sure schools have the staff they need to continue delivering learning and teaching. This will involve recruiting additional staff, including additional probationer teachers if necessary.

**What is the timescale for information coming to allow staff to plan for the reopening and their work?**

Detailed guidance is being provided to schools. This guidance covers all aspects of operating in current conditions in a safe and effective way.

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**Will there be additional funds allocated to support schools and teachers through this period?**

The Council is incurring additional expenditure in relation to COVID-19. The Scottish Government has allocated some funding to the Council and is allowing flexibility with ring fenced funding we receive to support Educational Recovery.

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**What discretion will schools have to provide Parent Councils with the relevant information on a return strategy soon?**

Schools are engaging with parents and Parent Councils on an ongoing basis. Plans will be shared by schools with parents by the end of June 2020.

**Will there be training for teachers and extra support for children experiencing mental health problems since the school was closed and throughout the return period?**

A range of materials and online learning opportunities are being provided to help teachers and education and care staff to best support children's wellbeing and resilience at this time. Educational Psychologists and Children's Services will also work closely with schools to support best practice to maintain wellbeing and resilience.

**If teachers are absent how does the Council propose to fill this gap. Is there a Council strategy to deal with the potential teacher shortage and make sure there is additional staffing available?**

We have a pool of supply teaching and support staff available. We will also review the availability of staff across all our settings so that, if needed, staff can move to settings where additional support may be required.

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**Will external professionals (eg speech therapists or counsellors) still be able to use the school for 1 to 1 sessions?**

A range of partner organisations are supporting children, young people and families through online contact. It is anticipated this will continue for the moment and this has been included in risk management planning.

What about teachers trying to juggle in-school and online teaching with their own childcare issues. Will they have priority for full time school places for their own children?

Teachers and other school staff will be required to apply for critical childcare in the same way as all key workers.

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