

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 setting below.

**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 | * 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 | * 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 | * All workers without whom there could be a significant impact on Scotland (but where the response to Covdi-19, or the ability to perform essential tasks to keep the country running, would not be severely compromised)
 |

All academies will assess SQA requirements and arrangements on Monday then notify 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 towards their qualifications.

Academies will also be open at lunchtime for children who are eligible for statutory free meals and children of keyworkers. One primary per cluster will also be open for early years and primary aged children who are eligible for statutory free meals and children of keyworkers. School catering will be provided within academies and the specified primaries. 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  with pupil name, academy they will attend + dietary requirement

**The list of schools that will be open 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.