

Statement from Dumfries and Galloway Council

Transition

Dumfries and Galloway schools will follow Scottish Government guidance as we prepare for re-opening school and early years settings in August. Initially, there will be a focus on our P7 pupils who will be starting S1 in August. This may include some in-school experience in late June so that they are fully supported to take the next steps in their education. This transition activity will be planned to meet the requirement for physical distancing and other age-appropriate measures in education settings to minimise the risk of transmission and ensure safety.

Scottish Government guidance advises that, given the circumstances that local authorities and schools are working under, there will be a need for flexibility within clear and consistent guidelines. All primary and secondary schools in Dumfries and Galloway will be asked to consider their June transition arrangements to ensure that parents who want their children to attend a physical induction are invited to attend. Transition days will not be the same as previous years but will be arranged to take account of the need for social distancing and sanitisation. There will also be options for virtual school tours or online activity. Schools will prioritise children who will benefit from enhanced transition, such as those with additional support needs. The majority of Primary 1 pupil induction activities will be at the beginning of term in August.

School transport is not normally offered for June transition days but, in the current circumstances, any family unable to make travel arrangements for their child to attend a transition event should contact the Covid-19 support hub on CV19Hub@dumgal.gov.uk.

Schools will be in touch with P7 pupils and parents to share the details of transition activity for secondary schools. Moving on to secondary school is always an exciting time for pupils. Although this year will be different, children can still meet their new teachers and feel confident to take this important step in their learning.