



Direct
contact: Catherine Quinn

Email: education@clacks.gov.uk

Date: 7th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Following the First Minister's statement on 4 January regarding further lockdown measures, we received updated supplementary **guidance** yesterday (6th January) from the Scottish Government for key workers and parents of vulnerable children applying for places at our schools.

This new guidance makes it clear that that number of children taking up these places during this strict lockdown should be kept to the absolute minimum necessary.

We are awaiting revised Scottish Government guidance on Early Learning and Childcare and we will provide a further update once this has been received.

As a result of this new guidance, we have had to put exceptional arrangements in place to ensure limited numbers of staff and children attend schools.

We appreciate that this is a difficult time for parents or carers but these measures are intended to prevent the spread of the new strain of the virus within the community.

The guidance from the Scottish Government is that children should remain at home during this period where possible. Therefore parents/carers who would like their children to be considered for a space in either a school must meet the criteria below:

- only key workers who are physically attending their workplace or who cannot fulfil their crucial functions when they are working remotely from home may qualify for places
- where alternative options are available eg childcare, a non-key worker parent or carer who is able to work from home - these should be used instead of children attending in person.

The new guidance also makes it clear that children or young people who were previously on the shielding list should not attend school in person.

We appreciate that these changes to Scottish Government guidance will have an impact on some families. If you have already made arrangements for your child to attend school this week, the provision will still be available on 7 and 8 January.

Schools will be in touch with families about in-school learning provision for children of key workers and vulnerable children as well as arrangements for remote learning as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Catherine Quinn".

Catherine Quinn
Interim Chief Education Officer