

17 March 2020



Dear Parent / Carer

COVID-19 Information for Midlothian Parents and Carers

In light of the developing situation around COVID 19, at this point in time all Midlothian settings will continue to be open and provide education for your child. However this continues to be closely monitored and we will maintain communication with you with regards to any changes.

All schools, early learning and childcare settings and other educational settings have been issued with detailed guidance by Health Protection Scotland. Our expectation is that all Midlothian settings are following this and using it as their primary source of guidance.

[NHS Inform \(www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus\)](http://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus).

Of primary importance at this time is our approach to infection control, we recommend that children and young people, staff and visitors wash their hands:

- Before leaving home
- On arrival at school/setting
- After using the toilet
- After breaks and sporting activities
- Before food preparation
- Before eating any food, including snacks
- Before leaving school/setting

If a pupil might have been in contact with someone infected with Coronavirus they should not attend education even if they are well. Parent / Carers should first contact NHS24 (111) for further assessment and advice then report this to the Head Teacher. The above guidelines also apply to all of our teaching and other staff.

It is of course your own decision as to whether or not you decide not to send your child to school. Schools will not provide individual packs of work for your child, however there will be activities on the school website. In addition we have developed a distance learning policy that will be put into action in due course.

Consideration will be given for those sitting practical exams over the coming weeks to ensure that these can proceed for those who are well. At present, there is no change to the published National Qualifications 2020 examination timetable, and the exam diet remains on track. The Scottish Qualifications Authority have advised that current deadlines for coursework, and other assessments, remain in place. The SQA is continuing to monitor the situation regarding coronavirus closely, in consultation with the

Scottish Government, and will provide further guidance if required. A Qualifications Contingency Planning group exists to draw together the Scottish Government, SQA and related stakeholders to consider any significant risks to the exam diet.

We appreciate that these are challenging circumstances. We would like to reassure you that our priority is to support the health and wellbeing of our children and young people and minimise any disruption to their education. We are in close contact with Head Teachers who will continue to provide you with updated information via your school's usual channels.

Midlothian Council's website will be updated with any developments at Midlothian.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fiona Robertson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'F' and a long, sweeping underline.

Fiona Robertson
Executive Director Children, Young People & Partnerships
cathy.lailvaux@midlothian.gov.uk