

Our Ref: LM/  
Date: 23 March 2020



Dear parent/carer

**Communication for parents accessing education provision during period of school closure**

Schools and early education and childcare centres across the country have now been closed for an indefinite period of time due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

Since the announcement on Wednesday, our staff have been doing everything they can to put services in place at short notice and react to extremely fast-moving and unprecedented circumstances.

In line with Scottish and UK Government guidance, we will continue to provide care for a limited number of children during the closure period at 14 dedicated community hubs across the council area.

Schools are being closed as a public health measure for the protection of young people, their families, our staff and our communities. The guidance is clear that for this to be effective in limiting the spread of the virus, numbers within the hubs must be kept to an absolute minimum.

We have therefore ensured that provision is limited to children whose parents or principal carers work in sectors which are critical to the Covid-19 response, and who cannot be safely cared for at home. This measure is designed to provide childcare for those who are in a frontline role and have no other alternative, such as NHS staff and care workers.

Every child who can be safely cared for at home should remain at home.

The support hubs will be operational across West Dunbartonshire from Wednesday, 25 March, and will be open during normal school hours, from 9am to 3pm, and this will be reviewed after Easter. There is no breakfast club or after school care provision during this time.

Head teachers will contact parents and carers who have indicated they require to access our support hubs to discuss their requirements directly with them.

The health and wellbeing of our communities, our pupils and our staff is our priority.

Thank you for your patience and continued support.

Yours sincerely

*Laura Mason*

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