



**Falkirk Council**  
*Children's Services*

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## **Update for Parents on Phased Re-opening of ELCs/Schools from 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021**

Initial guidance on the phased re-opening of ELCs/schools was published on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Further guidance was published on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021 following the First Minister's confirmation of the phased re-opening of ELCs/schools on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021. The guidance is intended to help ELCs/schools to plan for the full-time return of some children:

- Early Years
- P1 – P3

and part-time return for limited numbers of:

- Senior Phase students who require to carry out practical activities related to national qualifications

Arrangements for children accessing ASN provisions will be communicated with parents directly from settings.

The return for P1-P3 pupils is dependent on staff maintaining a 2m distance from other staff and each specialist provision has considered their model and risk assessments in line with the revised Scottish Government Guidance.

ELCs/school establishments are currently preparing for this phased return, for continuity of remote learning and for the provision for those children already attending in-school learning. All learners who will not be attending ELC/school will continue to be provided with an appropriate timetable for remote learning.

From 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021, free school meals will be available to all children in P1-3 who are attending school. All other children and young people P4-S6 who are eligible will continue to receive free school meal or alternative.

Each ELC/school is making arrangements to welcome children back, as appropriate, to their individual contexts. This will include the allocation of all available staffing to support learning and teaching. To meet all of the current requirements, it may be necessary to re-configure bubbles and to re-allocate some staff who were previously providing remote learning. All arrangements will be kept under regular review both locally and nationally. As previously, ELC/schools will be in regular communication with you to provide any updates. Individual ELCs/schools will contact you directly to confirm if your child(ren) are affected by these changes. For those P4 children in a P3/4 composite class, remote learning will continue.

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All risk assessments continue to be kept under review and these are updated and adapted as required. ELCs/schools already have robust processes and procedures in place to mitigate risk and promote the safety of all staff and pupils. This will continue to be the case.

In addition to these measures, as per Scottish Government guidance, the following have been introduced:

- availability of lateral flow testing for staff and senior phase pupils to access on a voluntary basis;
- 2m physical distancing requirement for all senior phase pupils within school;
- 2m physical distancing requirement for all senior phase pupils travelling on school transport; and
- face coverings should be worn by all children travelling on school transport.

It is essential that everyone follows Scottish Government and NHS guidance and that all adults respect 2m physical distancing and the local arrangements that have been put in place by ELCs/schools for the safe drop-off and pick-up of children.



Information to support parents/carers:

- [Parent Club COVID-19 internet microsite](#)
- [Parentzone Scotland](#)
- [The National Parent Forum Nutshell guide on blended learning](#)
- [Supporting Learning at Home during “lockdown”](#)
- [Online safety](#)
- [Scotland Learns](#)
- [Connected Falkirk link for Blended/Remote Learning Guidance](#)

Yours sincerely

David Mackay  
Head of Education