

**Date** 24 June 2020

**Your ref**

**Our ref** S&LL/AG/JR

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am sure you will be aware of the Education Secretary's statement announcing the return to school for all pupils in August. He was very clear to state the decision was based on scientific and health advice and that it was conditional on the positive progress being made to suppress the virus.

I recognise this has been a very uncertain and troubling period for all parents, pupils and staff and I sincerely hope we are heading towards a more predictable period when we can fully focus on providing the very best learning and teaching for our young people.

You will be aware the Council had plans for a blended model of learning involving in-school and at home learning. These plans now become our contingency if the scientific and health advice changes.

The consequence of the Scottish Government's advice clearly needs careful thought to ensure all the necessary additional hygiene, risk assessments, cleaning regimes and test and protect processes are fully in place to ensure children, young people and staff are safe. We await further guidance which we hope will be available before the end of term but we will be sure to update parents and carers throughout the summer as new information emerges.

We are now planning on the assumption that all schools will be fully open for pupils on 12 August 2020. Further updates will be shared on the Council's website <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/schools-learning/returning-school-august-2020/1> and you will be alerted to any new information using the text alert system.

Kind regards



**Andy Gray**

**Chief Education Officer**

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