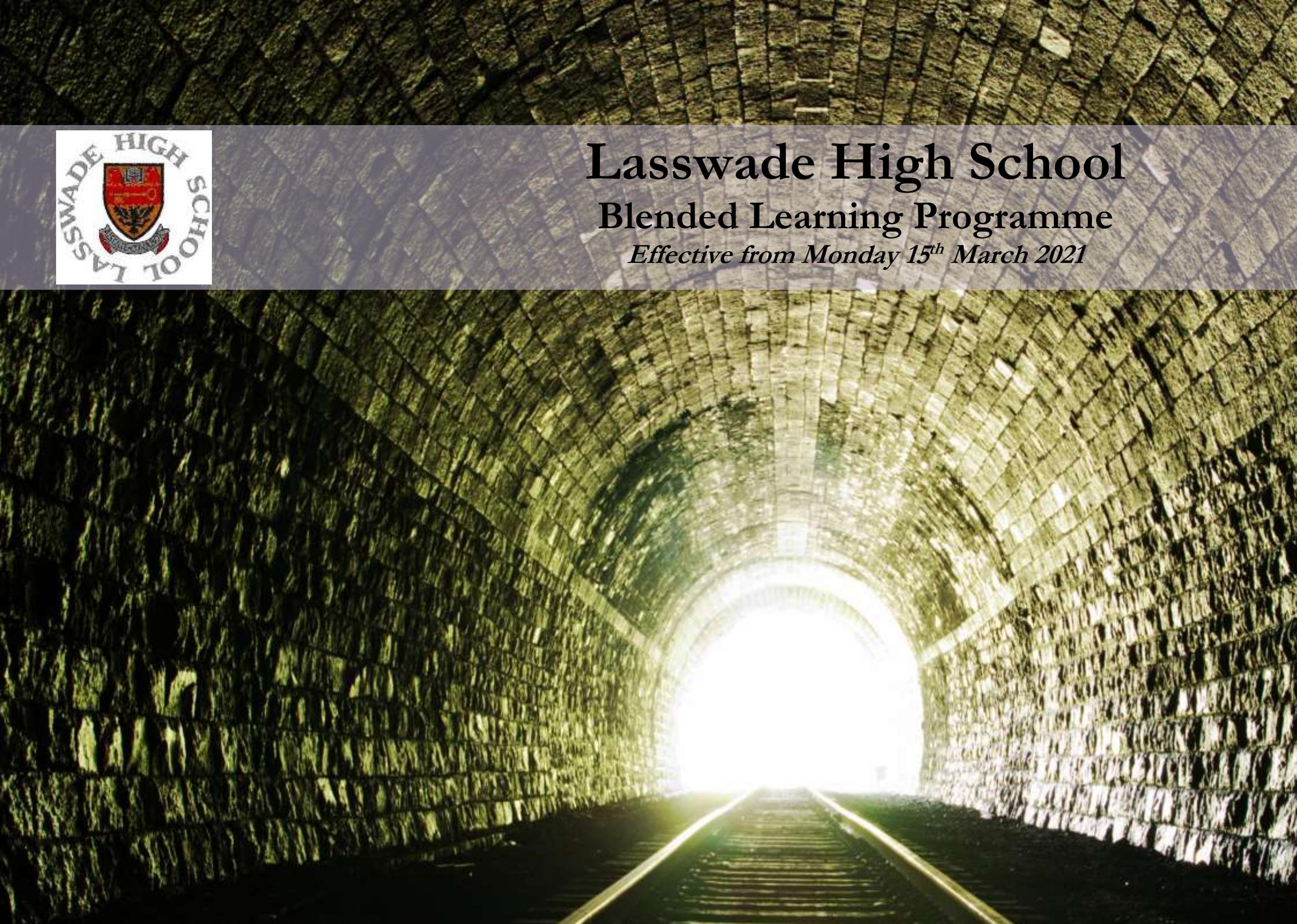




# Lasswade High School

## Blended Learning Programme

*Effective from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021*



## Background

The Public Health measures associated with Covid-19, including the January 2021 lockdown, have had a significant impact on our students and staff including time for in-school learning.

On Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 the First Minister outlined the next phase in the return to in-school learning for students. This included the phased part-time return of all secondary students to in-school learning for at least part of their week from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021. In addition, the expected final phase of the school return for all Lasswade High School students to in-school learning on a full-time basis is Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

## Values Base

During both Lockdowns our vision and values statement was revised. A temporary, values basis of our work was agreed following a short consultation with available staff on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020. As a school we will maintain this values base during our period of Blended Learning. It reflects the acronym: **#SERVICE**

- Students and Staff, **E**ffort, **R**esilience, **V**erve, **I**ntegrity, **C**reativity and **E**mpathy

These values and principles help to shape and guide our decision making and actions in what will be challenging times over the next few weeks. Our new, temporary, Mission Statement is; **'be Brave, stay Safe, be Brilliant'**

## Our Blended Learning Rationale

All schools are unique with their own contextual situation. In our context, Scottish Government and Education Scotland guidance provide the foundation of our Blended Learning Programme and have impacted on our planning;

- the **safety of staff and students must continue to be our key priority**; the First Minister reported on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 that the number of new Covid-19 cases a day is currently 13 times higher than the numbers in mid-August 2020, the new variant - which accounts for more than 85% of new cases - is highly infectious
- the **2m distancing requirement for all is possibly the most significant factor in our planning**; our school is over-capacity which means we have more students than the school was originally designed for, as a result with 2m distancing we can safely accommodate just under 40% of our students in-school at any one time
- students in the **Senior Phase, S4/S5/S6, are at a crucial phase of the school year and will have priority for in-school time**, this will ensure that they have the best chance of success in their qualifications under the Alternative Certification Model; our Senior Phase students will receive a higher level of in-school provision than BGEEd, S1/S2/S3, students
- in-school time for our BGEEd will focus on students getting used to being back in school and allow them to start seeing friends again, as well as undertaking activities relating to their learning, this is important for their wellbeing; we are **viewing BGEEd time in-school as a preparation period for a full-time in-school return after Easter**

- we are committed to **offering weekly in-school time to all our students**; our data shows that most of our students have engaged well with our E-learning programme since January 2021, however, not all have been able to, usually through no fault of their own; this means we will **target some BGEEd students and offer them additional in-school time** when compared to their peers
- as we are implementing a Blended Learning model; this means we will **continue to ensure that our E-learning programme is of the highest standard possible**; it is inevitable that as our in-school provision increases, our capacity for staff to deliver an E-learning programme will be adversely affected, we therefore must ensure that our staff have enough time to work on our E-learning programme
- our **Key Worker and Vulnerable Hub provision which has been running since Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 will continue until the Easter break**; this accommodates on a typical day around 80 students, these students feature in our planning around the maximum number of students we can safely accommodate in school at any one time

### **Our Blended Learning Programme**

Our in-school provision is based around two 'big block' sessions each day, Monday through Thursday and one 'big block' on a Friday. These blocks allow us to comply with 2m distancing requirements with **Senior Phase** classes 'split' in half and morning sessions repeated in the afternoon. Timings are as follows

- 8.30am to 11.00am and 12.45pm to 3.15pm, Monday through Thursday
- 8.30am to 11.00am, on a Friday

Our **Senior Phase** in-school sessions are based on our column structure and linked to our school timetable. All SCQF Level 3, 4 and 5 courses will have two in-school sessions and most SCQF Level 6 and 7 courses will have three in-school sessions. **Most Senior Phase students should be in-school every day.**

In-school **Senior Phase** sessions will be focussed on Learning and Teaching activities to support progress towards National Qualifications. Assessments relating to the SQA Alternative Certification Model will be kept to a minimum and primarily be restricted to practical or performance elements of courses. All SQA related assessments will be 'sanctioned' by our SQA Co-ordinator with students receiving at least two weeks' notice.

Our E-learning work for **Senior Phase** students will primarily be self-directed study and revision orientated and posted on a weekly basis. Time at-home and in-school will be connected and planned with full account taken of our Blended context.

Our **BGEEd** in-school sessions are bespoke and based around our House system. All BGEEd students will have one 'big block' session of in-school time each week with targeted students having two sessions. Targeted students are identified through our Student Support team with decisions based on our E-learning engagement data and knowledge of individual circumstances.

Almost all **BGEEd** students will have significantly fewer in-school sessions than Senior Phase students. The requirement for 2m distancing has a severe impact on the number of students that can be accommodated in a classroom. Most classrooms will only be able to accommodate a maximum of 10-12 students, with some having less capacity than this. Many BGEEd classes have up to thirty students and to accommodate 2m distancing a class will need to be split into two or often three

groups. Given their age and stage, each BGEEd group requires a separate teacher and classroom. In effect, a class of thirty requires three teachers and three classrooms. **As we are deliberately prioritising in-school time for Senior Phase students we are left with neither the space nor teachers to allow equal amounts of in-school time for BGEEd students when compared to the Senior Phase.**

In-school **BGEEd** sessions will be focussed on students reconnecting with their friends and staff. Students will require time to get used to being back in school as well as undertaking activities relating to their learning in core areas of literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing. In-school time is important but given 2m distancing and school capacity is relatively limited up until the Easter break. We are viewing BGEEd time in-school as a preparation period for a full-time in-school return after Easter, wherever possible we will work outside with our BGEEd students.

Our E-learning work for **BGEEd** students remains significant and will continue with subject specific content but with an adapted format, e.g., project work. Our BGEEd students will be expected to follow our two-week timetable model for E-learning but will have a weekly in-school session. We will prioritise Live Meets, whenever possible, with our BGEEd students.

Work will continue to be posted on the appropriate subject or year-group Google Classrooms for all students and for almost all BGEEd students will be the main source of their learning.

For students who do not have access to a suitable electronic device or data, a referral should be made, via email, to [e-learning.lasswade@mgfl.net](mailto:e-learning.lasswade@mgfl.net). Where technical support is required (using devices and accessing materials), an email should be sent to the e-learning mailbox and our staff will then provide specific support.

### **Our Key Worker and ‘Vulnerable’ Hub Provision**

Lasswade students whose parents/carers have been identified as Category 1 and 2 Key Workers, and council staff who have requested assistance with childcare, and who are unable to make alternative arrangements for supervision will continue to be offered the opportunity to attend our Hub. Lunches will continue to be provided.

‘Vulnerable’ Lasswade students have been identified through discussion with staff in Creative Learning, The Pod and Student Support teams. Parents/carers of these students have been contacted and will continue to be offered a place in our Hub. Our Hub provision will follow our regular school day opening/closing timings though some students may attend at different times within the school day according to their needs. Enhanced levels of weekly contact remain in place for identified vulnerable students and we continue to offer a range of bespoke supports to young people and their families.

Whenever possible Hub students will attend in-school Blended Learning sessions for their year group/house and will attend the Hub provision for the remainder of each day. We are encouraging all students attending the Hub, who have access to their own digital devices, to bring them for use in the Hub as our own school ICT provisions will now be shared by students returning for the in-school part of our programme.

The Key Worker Provision will be relocated to the PE area of the school building and will become one larger bubble. This allows the classrooms currently used to be used for in-school learning by subject teachers. Importantly, it also protects students from mixing with the wider school community, thus supporting our health and safety measures. Our Vulnerable provision will largely remain in its current location.

## Transport to and from school

Walking is probably the safest method of travel for students, avoiding large groups and observing the 2m distancing where possible. Students should consider using their own bicycle, if they have access to one. The distance to be travelled of course may be too great or too arduous.

Students travelling by dedicated school transport are required to wear a face covering. On school buses 1m distancing will be expected. Students should follow good personal hygiene routines, e.g., hand sanitising.

**From Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March all our school buses will undertake ‘double runs’ to facilitate our Blended Learning programme.** The following arrangements are applicable;

- Regular morning pick-up and arrival at school for our 8.30am start
- New 11.10am school departure to allow students attending our in-school morning session to return home
- New pick-up and arrival at school around 12.30pm for our afternoon in-school sessions; students should anticipate a 12.30pm arrival at school and work backwards from their usual morning arrival time at school to anticipate pick-up times, e.g., if students are usually picked-up twenty minutes before they arrive at school they should be ready to be picked-up at 12.10pm
- Regular afternoon departure from school at 3.25pm to return home

Where public transport has to be used students should wear a face covering and ensure that the 1m distancing rule is maintained from other passengers. It is advised that students carry their own hand-sanitiser and avoid eating or drinking whilst on public transport.

Car sharing for those from different households is discouraged.

The parents of students who travel to school via taxi will be contacted individually to conform arrangements.

## Procedures for safe working when in-school

Much progress in safe working has been established and embedded into our practice since August 2020. Our school Risk Assessment has been updated to reflect our Blended Learning context. When students and staff are working in-school we apply a range of mitigations to help ensure we all stay safe, in particular;

- being vigilant to students/staff displaying symptoms of Covid-19; high temperature, loss of taste/smell and continuous cough
- all staff and Senior Phase students have the opportunity to take part in a programme of at-home Covid-19 Asymptomatic Testing, whilst not mandatory participation by all is strongly recommended
- upon arrival for any in-school sessions **Senior Phase and Hub students should enter through the main entrance** and head straight to their designated area for their session, **BGEEd students should enter the building via the back playground**, into the Atrium, and head straight to their designated learning area for their session

- all non-Hub students will remain in their learning area for the duration of their session, with the exception of necessary toilet breaks or any pre-arranged outdoor learning activities, thereby reducing gatherings/groups; default practice of 2m distancing between individuals and outside provision for breaks and lunches for Hub students
- all staff and students should wear a face covering, unless medically exempt, at all times when working in the school building,
- all staff and students should wash/sanitise their hands, applying well established public health advice; 20 seconds, etc., this is particularly important when students and staff enter the building with regular opportunities for hand washing/sanitising in each session
- personal workspaces in classrooms should be cleaned with spray and wipes before and after learning
- classrooms and the school building will be ventilated; classroom windows and doors should remain open, students and staff are recommended to wear warm clothing and layers where possible.

## Communication

Specific details relating to days/times/location of in-school sessions will be shared with parents/carers via email from Thursday 11th March

**2021.** Students will also be informed via their subject specific Google Classrooms. It may not be possible to have each student's usual class teacher working with them and classes/groups may be mixed but this is factored into our provision and will not be detrimental to any learning and teaching during these sessions.

Given our return to weekly in-school contact for all students our system of Student Support home/school contact via telephone or e-mail to support student well-being and engagement with e-learning will no longer apply.

The school website and social media platforms will continue to be updated on a regular basis. Students should be vigilant to their subject and year-group Google Classrooms; classroom teachers, Year Heads and Student Support will continue to use this method to communicate information.

Parents/carers should be aware that the School Office will again be staffed during normal school hours. However, we continue to discourage non-essential visits to the school and are encouraging parents/carers to use the following dedicated emails for the following matters;

- SQA; [LasswadeHS-SQA@mgfl.net](mailto:LasswadeHS-SQA@mgfl.net)
- Lasswade Hub: [beBrave-staySafe-beBrilliant@mgfl.net](mailto:beBrave-staySafe-beBrilliant@mgfl.net)
- E-Learning Continuity: [e-learning.lasswade@mgfl.net](mailto:e-learning.lasswade@mgfl.net)
- For all other matters, please use the 4 dedicated House emails;
  - [MEWellbeing.Lasswade@mgfl.net](mailto:MEWellbeing.Lasswade@mgfl.net) (Melville House)
  - [MKWellbeing.Lasswade@mgfl.net](mailto:MKWellbeing.Lasswade@mgfl.net) (Mount Esk House)
  - [SAWellbeing.Lasswade@mgfl.net](mailto:SAWellbeing.Lasswade@mgfl.net) (St Anne's House)
  - [SLWellbeing.Lasswade@mgfl.net](mailto:SLWellbeing.Lasswade@mgfl.net) St Leonard's House)

### **What does my child need to bring to school?**

The most important thing is that our students attend. We are looking forward to seeing them again. **School uniform should be as close to normal as possible.** We will continue to take a 'relaxed' view and understand that young people grow, uniform may not fit and shops have been closed. We trust our families to make sensible decisions around what is suitable to wear to school.

**Almost all students will not need to bring a lunch.** Public health measures mean that students will not be permitted to linger after a morning session or prior to their afternoon session. Social time, i.e., breaks and lunchtimes will not be like the usual time that students have experienced earlier this session or in previous school years. However, it would be sensible for students to bring a snack and although our water fountains are open we would advise students bring their own bottle of water if they can. BACS payments for those in receipt of free meal entitlement will continue until at least the Easter break.

The approximately 25% of S1 and S2 students who we will targeted for additional in-school time should bring their own lunch. By Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March these groups will/should know who they are.

We would encourage students if they have a device, tablet or laptop that they bring this if they can. We have 'loaned back' many of our Chromebooks to Midlothian Council to allow other families and young people to be supported during Lockdown. We will not be fully restocked until after Easter.

An old-fashioned pencil case full of stationery is always a good idea if your child is able to manage this.

### **National Guidance**

The relevant Scottish Government and Education Scotland guidance to support our work from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 can be accessed via the links below

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-advisory-sub-group-on-education-and-childrens-issues---phased-return-to-in-person-learning-in-schools-and-elc-settings---next-steps/>

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance on schools reopening - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-advisory-sub-group-on-education-and-childrens-issues---phased-return-to-in-person-learning-in-schools-and-elc-settings---next-steps/)

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/covid-19-education-recovery/cerg-guidance/>