



Education Resources
Executive Director **Tony McDaid**

Our ref: TMcD/LB
Your ref:
If calling ask for: Tony McDaid
Phone: 01698 454379
Date: 20 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I write to inform you of contingency plans for Monday, 23 March 2020 for South Lanarkshire Council, following the Scottish Government decision to close all schools and nurseries today in order to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus.

The Deputy First Minister announced yesterday that arrangements would be put in place by local authorities to provide critical provision to enable key workers to attend work. In South Lanarkshire Council, this means that on Monday, 23 March and Tuesday, 24 March children of Category 1 key workers who have no alternative childcare can attend their school or nursery. This facility is provided to allow key workers to attend their workplace. As you will appreciate, this is an ever-changing situation and we anticipate that our offer may be adapted further during next week.

Emergency Provision

The list of Category 1 workers is as follows:

- Health and Care workers supporting COVID – 19 response and associated staff
- Health and Care workers supporting life threatening and critical primary and community care provision
- Energy suppliers

SLC have included:

- Staff providing childcare for other category staff i.e. teachers and all other school staff including facilities staff.

This facility is open to those families whose children are well and healthy and who cannot secure personal, alternative childcare arrangements. **I must reinforce that young people with underlying health conditions or who are currently self-isolating should NOT attend such provision.**

All other children must not attend school on Monday.

Distance Learning

Schools have been working hard to provide materials and creative options for continuation of learning experiences and Head Teachers will continue to manage information in relation to this.

SQA Examinations

Following yesterday's announcement, this is understandably an anxious time for young people and their parents. Secondary staff are making bespoke arrangements to ensure that individual young people fulfil what is needed, in order to gain accreditation without in the absence of the final

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examination. Schools will communicate directly with parents and young people on this issue and will work to ensure that our young people are not disadvantaged.

Free School Meals

Primary and secondary aged pupils who are eligible for free school meals will be able to access this provision at **any South Lanarkshire school** from 12:00 until 1:30pm. Parents/carers accompanying children will also be offered a healthy snack/meal.

Please continue to follow the updates provided through the school and Council social media sites. For specific questions please contact individual schools direct but please be mindful that schools are currently dealing with a high level of enquiries.

For further health care advice please visit www.nhsinform.scot

In these exceptional times, we know the school will continue to play a pivotal role in the lives of our communities and while our interaction with children, young people and their families will change in the weeks and months ahead, I have no doubt that working together we will overcome these challenges.

Yours sincerely



Tony McDaid
Executive Director (Education Resources)