

People Directorate

Depute Chief Executive and Director - People: Douglas Hutchison

County Buildings
Wellington Square
Ayr
KA7 1DR

Our Ref: DH/LD Your Ref:
Date: 17 November 2020



Dear Parent / Carer

Level 4 Restrictions for Schools and Early Years Centres

Following the First Minister's announcement about South Ayrshire moving to level 4 there will be some additional restrictions related to your child's education. The main implications are for children and young people identified as shielding.

From Monday 23rd November the following increased mitigations and restrictions will be implemented in line with national advice:

- The current advice is that children on the shielding list should not attend in person. However, there will be further consideration of how individualised risk assessments can be used to maximise school attendance, and remove barriers to access to regulated childcare services, for children who continue to shield during Level 4 restrictions. It is expected that these should be informed by the secondary care (hospital) clinical team caring for the child or young person. **Parents should contact the clinical team supporting their child for further advice.**
- Schools will engage with enhanced testing responses to Covid outbreaks where recommended by the Public Health Incident Management Team. An outbreak is defined as two or more linked positive cases in a school.
- Physical education within school settings will only be allowed to take place out of doors. Schools will consider what types of activity and clothing may be most appropriate in view of weather conditions. While physical education should continue to be considered a priority, if weather is extremely bad then schools may use their judgement as to whether it is safe for children to be outside. We will continue to work with schools and the central team to examine ways to comply with the enhanced mitigations and restrictions whilst still enabling senior phase classes to undertake National Qualifications and the required coursework.
- Pausing of the provision of non-essential activities or clubs outside the usual school timetable. This does not include regulated childcare operating from school premises.

Hopefully, the additional restrictions put in place by Scottish Government will mean we are able to bring the spread of the virus under greater control before the Christmas break. Thank you for your patience and the support you are giving to your children's school which is greatly appreciated. As I have said before, there will be an end to this pandemic and there is scope for optimism with vaccines and the possibility of mass immunisation. In the meantime, we will get to the other side safely by observing the current restrictions and ensuring the whole community is protected.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Douglas Hutchison'.

Douglas Hutchison
Depute Chief Executive and Director - People