

Moray COVID-19 Response



Education, Communities and Organisational Development: Education

Moray Education

ELC Parent/Carer Guide

Bee Safe
in MORAY 

Parent/Carer Guide

Information for your child(ren) returning to nursery following Covid-19



Scottish Government Update

The Depute First Minister (DFM) has announced the expected return to ELC for **all** children, young people and staff taking full account of progress made in suppressing COVID-19 in Scotland, the scientific advice received and the advice of the Education Recovery Group and other key stakeholders. This guidance has been designed to assist you and your children in preparation for returning to nursery and to provide you with reassurance of what this will be like so that you can work with your children to support any concerns or worries they may have.

There will be a great deal to digest within this guidance and your child's nursery will also update you and provide a learner guide for information to help prepare learners to return after an extensive break from attending nursery. Your child's nursery will refine systems they will be putting in place and will evaluate the impact of that over the course of August and beyond. We hope this guide will answer and clarify many of the questions you may have, with a particular focus on:

- Health and Safety
- Children and Parents
- Pupil wellbeing
- Learning
- Keeping Safe during COVID-19

This guidance is relevant as of **30 July** when the DFM announced his plans for nurseries reopening. This **may change** should there be any updated national guidance and we will share any changes via your child's nursery but also via Moray Council social media pages (Facebook and Twitter) and the website.

Preparing your child to return to nursery

Some children may be anxious to return to nursery for a number of reasons. Please use the information in this guide to support your child prior to return. If you have particular concerns, please ensure that you inform the nursery of this week beginning 10 August and certainly prior to their return on 12 August. You may also wish to look up resources available from the Parent Club who have produced guidance for parents <https://www.parentclub.scot/>

It is really important that children start to reconnect to normal patterns and routines and so a return to nursery will support this and ensure that their education continues.

Moray Council Update

We have taken the decision that all nursery pupils will return on 12 August. Every child in Moray is important to us and so we would not wish any child to feel that they are not welcome back on the first day of term. Nurseries will run internal transitions to familiarise children with operating procedures and processes and to help them in returning to the nursery environment. For those children starting nursery for the first time, staff will make arrangements to ensure their transition is well supported.

Risk Assessments and Policies

- Risk assessments for each nursery have been created and agreed with staff, trade unions and with Moray Council Education and Health and Safety staff. Nurseries will have adapted these to suit their own environment and buildings and to take account of any local risks. These will continue to be updated once buildings are fully operational.

Health and Safety

There are a number of updates to Health and Safety procedures within nurseries. Below is a summary of key measures in place for the safe return of our learners and staff. As and when further questions arise, we will add to this and share this with you:

- All staff will be briefed on the in-service days of the increased safety protocols relating to COVID-19 and will follow the control measures identified on the Risk Assessment document.
- Child friendly graphics using the BEE Safe in Moray logo may be present in establishments.
- Cleaning patterns and routines have been implemented for our nurseries and settings to support the prevention of spread of COVID-19, these are specific to each nursery/setting.
- Increased handwashing protocols will be put in place and there will be reduced access to some facilities for children – staff will regularly remind children about this. We have changed the soap to a gentler one and this has proved to be better when children were in the hubs.
- Hand sanitiser stations will be present on entry and exit and where necessary throughout the buildings where hand washing is not possible. Children will be expected to hand sanitise as they enter and leave the building and where necessary staff will support this.
- One-way systems may be in place across the nursery/setting where this is necessary and signs will assist children to navigate round the building.
- It is not necessary for children to wear masks.
- All inhalers, epi-pens and medicines should be updated by parents and sent into nursery, clearly labelled. It is essential that the nursery has this for 12 August.

Children and Parents

- A number of changes have been made within each nursery in an attempt to maintain the Health and Safety protocols listed above. We have attempted to list as many examples as possible.

Learning Play Space

- Nurseries have been decluttered with excess furniture and fittings stored to provide as much room as possible and to allow the practitioners to support 2 m social distancing.
- The amount of movement between spaces in nursery will be kept to a minimum.
- Many soft furnishings, resources and display areas will be removed to provide additional space. or they may be covered
- Learning play space will look very different and some nurseries may share photographs of rooms using their normal communication methods prior to opening.
- You may see nursery windows open throughout the day – this is to ensure that there is adequate ventilation.

Access to the Site

In order to prevent any larger gatherings, it is vital that parents/carers remain outside the nursery building at all times. The following measures have been put in place to try and ensure the safety of our children and staff:

- Visitors to our nurseries will be kept to a bare minimum – should you need to speak with the Nursery manager or a member of staff please contact the nursery by phone or email or their preferred method in order to arrange a time to discuss your concerns.
- Parents will be asked to remain outside the building/grounds at all times. We understand that new ante pre children may find the first few days tricky and so your nursery will share arrangements for dropping off your child with you. We will unfortunately not be able to allow you access to the nursery building.
- Access to nurseries will only be permitted in an emergency. Contact should be via normal communication methods.
- You should arrange to drop your child(ren) off and pick them up at an agreed location ensuring that social distancing is adhered to and adopt a “park and stride” approach or walk to nursery where possible.
- Nurseries may stagger drop off and pick up times and they will inform you of this. They may also inform you of any changes to the entry and exit doors that children will use.

- Parents will not be able to drop off forgotten items or additional belongings to the nursery.
- Children must arrive to nursery at the designated time. Late attendance will be closely monitored as it risks the safety of staff and pupils.
- We ask that one parent maximum drops off or picks up children from nursery.
- Please consider a 'park and stride' approach to avoid congestion outside the nursery. Where at all possible, children should walk to nursery. Car sharing with children from other households is discouraged.
- Parents should not physically approach staff at nursery drop-off and pick-up times. Parents should maintain a 2 m social distance from other parents.
- There will be no nursery trips out with the locality of the nursery initially.
- If you have to pick up your child as they are showing symptoms, the nursery will provide you details regarding pick-up.

Learner well-being

Learner well-being and safety will be a number one priority throughout reopening. Although nursery will be different in many ways, every attempt will be made to maintain normality wherever possible.

Physical Distancing

- Nursery– there is no requirement for physical distancing between children in nursery.
- We will be encouraging children to maintain distance where possible particularly indoors this includes not crowding together and discouraging social physical contact (hand to hand greeting/hugs) – younger children will find this particularly difficult.
- We will discourage gatherings eg more than 50 people in one area and so there will be no assemblies or parents evenings for the foreseeable future.
- Any adults in nurseries will maintain a 2 m physical distance between them and other adults.
- Some staff may choose to wear face coverings
- Fire drill procedures will be updated so that children and staff can muster safely outside

Snack and Lunchtimes

- Nurseries may stagger snack and lunchtimes and will advise you if they wish to do this.
- Though much equipment will be out of bounds and the sharing of equipment not permitted, we will encourage children to be as active as possible. Where there is fixed outdoor play equipment children will be informed when this is available to use and when not

Lunch times and catering

- The nursery meal service will be reduced initially with a packed lunch for the first 4 weeks of term one to allow catering staff to adhere to social distancing. We hope to provide a full hot meal service as soon as is practically possible and you will be advised of when this will restart.
- The nursery meal service will return to a reduced menu in the first instance to allow staff to socially distance.
- Nursery will still offer your child(ren) snack throughout the session.

Uniform

- As all children return to nursery/ELC settings, normal clothing requirements should be adhered to. If this causes you any difficulty, please contact the nursery or setting and they will be able to signpost you to support or provide you with good quality used clothing.
- Nursery clothing should be washed as normal and changed regularly if marked. Once again, if you have any concerns or queries please do not hesitate to contact the nursery or setting.

Learning - Curriculum

Due to the extended period of lockdown and remote learning it will be essential that each nursery reviews where each child is in their learning. Over the course of the first few weeks practitioners will observe children at play to

gather the information required. We understand how difficult this time has been for parents/carers juggling other commitments. Within each nursery they will set their priorities which will broadly be:

- Health and wellbeing and the emotional wellbeing of children
- Literacy core skills
- Numeracy core skills
- Other key core skills
- Interdisciplinary learning – seeing how children can transfer their skills and knowledge in other areas of the curriculum

There may be some changes to normal nursery routines:

- We will be limiting the number of resources available and for our younger children they will access toys and equipment which are easy to clean.
- Our approach to Early Years' learning is through play activities and so we will carefully manage any use of sand, water and playdough to meet hygiene requirements.
- We would ask that you do not encourage children to take toys from home or to share their personal belongings with their friends. Younger children will find this tricky and so wherever possible please limit the additional items being brought in to nursery.
- We will not be encouraging the sharing of pegs – children will take their bags and jackets into the nursery.
- Nursery staff will limit the amount of resources going between home and nursery and many will make use of reading bags for books. Please be assured that there will be a process in place to ensure that any library or other books are quarantined before being reissued.
- Music/singing will be avoided during the initial return to nurseries as we are awaiting national guidance on how to undertake this safely.

Outdoor Learning

- The Scottish Government have suggested an increase in the use of outdoors for outdoor lessons and nurseries will consider this as they plan learning on return.
- In the event of good weather, children should arrive at nursery already wearing sun cream. Sun cream can be brought to nursery, where it will remain until the end of term, and children should be aware of how to apply it themselves. Staff will assist children where required providing you've completed a sun cream permission.

Keeping Safe During COVID-19

- We will maintain vigilance at all times for the symptoms of COVID-19.
- If a pupil or staff member tests negative for Coronavirus they are welcome to return to nursery.
- **Do not** send your child to nursery if they have:
 - a continuous cough
 - fever/high temperature
 - loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste
- Follow the guidance from <https://www.nhsinform.scot/>
- If your child is unwell, you will be contacted and arrangements made to pick them up as quickly as possible. It would be preferable that any adult from their household picks them up and not a grandparent. You will then need to follow the national guidance for households with possible COVID-19 infection including testing and self-isolation. They will be asked to isolate in a well ventilated designated space until they can be collected. Staff monitoring these pupils will wear protective PPE equipment if they cannot safely maintain a 2m distance.
- All persons in nursery displaying Coronavirus symptoms, however mild, will be sent home immediately and they should then follow Government guidelines on self-isolation.
- If a child or young person whose family members are displaying symptoms of Coronavirus you must follow Government guidance on self-isolating.
- If a child or staff member is contacted by a contact tracer and told to self-isolate for fourteen days, the person should leave nursery to self-isolate at home straight away and, if possible, wear a face covering en route and avoid public transport.
- If there are a number of confirmed cases in a nursery and it is concerned for the safety of the staff and pupils it will contact Grampian Public Health colleagues and ask for advice. Any decision to close a nursery will be a joint decision between Public Health and Local Authority colleagues and you will be advised of this by the

Nursery Manager through normal processes. Should this arise, a period of remote or blended learning will be instigated and you will be kept up-to-date by the Nursery Manager.

- You should then follow advice given and your child(ren) should self-isolate if necessary. Please inform the nursery if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19.
- There will be a national surveillance programme and we will inform you of this later.
- Should there be a spike in local cases then information and planning will be provided as part of our contingency actions.

Thank you for taking the time to read this guide. Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's nursery and we will update the guidance where necessary or the nursery will provide information relevant to their establishment.

Please continue to follow national guidance and advise to keep safe and stop the spread of COVID-19.

Vivienne Cross
Head of Education (Chief Education Officer)
30 July 2020

Examples of our Bee Safe in Moray signage to share with your children

