



## Arrangements for Schools

Closing schools and nursery settings is an important part of our efforts to control the spread of COVID-19.

From Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, what we deliver within our school buildings is changing to support our communities – while pupils and teachers are working in different ways, school buildings will be open to provide childcare (From Primary 1 to S6) for those providing critical services in response to COVID-19. The Government has asked us to keep the opening of physical settings to the minimum so we are asking you to help us ensuring those attending are those that truly need it in order to support the local and national response to COVID-19.

We will have all 16 Secondary Schools buildings across our region open from 9am – 3pm to provide childcare (From Primary 1 to S6) to those whose parents absolutely have to go to work to respond to COVID-19 and cannot use one of the providers listed on our website <https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/media/22754/Childcare-Information-for-Key-Workers/pdf/Childcare-Information-for-KEY-WORKERS.pdf?m=637203184641200000>

A meal service will be available for all children and young people attending. In addition Free School Meals will be provided from all secondary schools from 12.30pm-2pm.

The Scottish Government has designated those who are eligible to access services at our schools. However we are working with local employer stakeholders to ensure that any staff who work in critical businesses in our local communities are included. We will publish over the next few days a clear list of critical local staff in addition to the current Scottish Government list. You can see the current national list of who is eligible to access services by visiting: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus--school-and-elc-closures-guidance-on-critical-childcare-provision-for-key-workers/>

It is important to remember that this is part of the effort to reduce social contact and we would ask you to help us to ensure this service is only used by those who need it.

Young People who are self-isolating or who have underlying medical conditions should not attend.

As you will appreciate this is a really unique situation, it has also affected a number of our Council staff and their families and some of our staff will have the same childcare challenges. The arrangements being put in place on Monday are temporary until Wednesday to give us time to redeploy our resources in order that

we can have a wider service from Thursday including some of our Primary Schools and we ask for your patience as we make these arrangements.

We are committed to ensuring that no child or young person will go hungry. If you need help with food provision you can contact us discreetly by emailing [SkillsEducationandLearningCOVID19@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:SkillsEducationandLearningCOVID19@dumgal.gov.uk) and we will make arrangements to ensure we can provide you with food.

We thank everyone for their support and understanding as we all work together in our communities to support each other.

#SupportDG