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23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Please see below an update from Vincent Docherty, Head of Education, Aberdeenshire Council regarding the proposed plan for schools following the First Minister's announcement on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December.

Yours sincerely

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Mr Adrian Anderson  
Head Teacher

Dear Parent/Carer

The following is the proposed plan for Aberdeenshire schools after the First Minister's announcement on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December. It adheres exactly to the guidance provided by Scottish Government and will hopefully allow local decisions to be made in the most effective way for children and young people across our Council.

1. Schools (including nursery provision where offered) will open to staff only on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January 2021. The expectation will be that all staff attend to prepare for the programme ahead.
2. Children of keyworkers and vulnerable children will attend school on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January for school age learning and childcare during normal school operating hours. The keyworker definitions have been updated and are attached to this communication. As before, both parents would require to be category 1 or 2 workers (or one in a single parent household). Children within these categories who are currently isolating should not attend.
3. Transport and catering for these groups will be in place from 6<sup>th</sup> of January. Parent/carers of pupils with Free School Meal entitlement have received a payment via BACS on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020.
4. On-line learning for all other children and young people will commence on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> of January. Schools are expected to have planned how this will be coordinated during the previous week.
5. The delivery of on-line learning will continue until at least Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2021 when the situation will be reviewed. This means that other than vulnerable children and children of keyworkers, no pupil should physically attend their school.
6. Central teams will be on hand to support schools with identified vulnerable children and others who may be at risk.
7. A further communication will follow week commencing 29<sup>th</sup> of December with further advice.

Whilst this situation is unexpected and was announced after staff and pupils had started their Christmas break, we are confident that working together we will be able to put in place arrangements that allow effective learning for all of our children and young people. We continue to rely on your support to ensure that we do the right thing for your children under these very difficult circumstances.

We wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Thank you all for your continued support through this challenging time.

Yours sincerely

**Vincent A Docherty**

**Head of Education  
Aberdeenshire Council**

## Appendix 1: Aberdeenshire Council: List of Private Sector and Third Sector Essential Services and Key Workers

	Sector	Function/Service	Category
<b>1.</b>	<b>Agriculture, Fishing and Primary Processing</b>		
1.1		Direct activity in farming, fishing and primary processing of farming and seafood products, including fish markets	2
1.2.		Contractors supporting animal health, husbandry and production of animal foodstuffs*	2
<b>2.</b>	<b>Manufacturing / Industry</b>		
2.1		Direct activity in food manufacturing	2
2.2		Engineering support to key sectors* (field engineering)	2
2.3		Supplies for Primary Industry (mining, quarrying, forestry, farming and fishing)*	3
2.4		Chemicals services directly supporting critical sectors/essential services	3
2.5.		Civil nuclear	2
<b>3.</b>	<b>Utilities</b>		
3.1		Water (including sewerage) and associated contractors	1
3.2		Energy suppliers (oil, gas, electricity) and associated contractors: frontline supply chain i.e. critical assets, facilities, systems, networks or processes	1
3.3		Telecommunications*	1
3.4		Private sector waste services / disposal*	2
<b>4.</b>	<b>Energy (oil, gas, renewables)</b>		
4.1		Direct activity on and offshore, in recovery, generation and processing only i.e. fuel refineries, gas terminals, power stations	2
<b>5.</b>	<b>Transportation / distribution</b>		
5.1		Haulage and delivery (for critical sectors/essential services)	2
5.2		Storage and distribution facilities, including delivery drop off or collection points (for critical sectors/essential services)	2
5.3		Public transportation (air, water, road and rail passenger)	2
5.4		Freight rail transportation	2
5.5		Commercial harbours	2
5.6		Vehicle repair and MOT services	3
5.7		Bicycle repairs	3
5.8		Taxi or vehicle hire businesses	3

<b>6.</b>	<b>Communications</b>		
6.1		Courier and postal services / delivery.	2
6.2		Information technology and data infrastructure for critical sectors / essential services	2
6.3		Call centre staff for critical sectors / essential services	2
6.4		Public service journalism and broadcasting*	3
<b>7.</b>	<b>Wholesale and Retail</b>		
7.1		Food and grocery wholesale	2
7.2		Grocery retail services, including supermarkets, convenience stores/corner shops, newsagents	2
7.3		Petrol stations / fuel supply stores (including gas)	2
7.4		Homeware, building supplies and hardware stores*	3
7.5		Laundrettes and dry cleaners	3
7.6		Pet shops	3
7.7		Agricultural supplies	2
7.8		Chemist/pharmacy	1
7.9		Household equipment repair and maintenance services*	3
<b>8.</b>	<b>Building Maintenance</b>		
8.1		Electricians/heating technicians *	2
8.2		Plant and building maintenance*	3
8.3		Plumbers *	2
<b>9.</b>	<b>Business Services</b>		
9.1		Essential financial services* including financial market infrastructure, banks, building societies, credit unions, short-term loan providers and cash points	2
9.2		Private food quality control services	2
<b>10.</b>	<b>Health / care</b>		
10.1		Private agency care staff working in residential care homes, care services and care-at-home services	2
10.2.		Private childcare providers providing services for Category 1 key workers (Category 1) and other key workers (Category 2)	1/2
10.3.		Dental services, opticians, audiology services, chiropody services, chiropractors, osteopaths and other medical or health services, including services relating to mental health*	2
10.4.		Veterinary services* and medicines	2
10.5.		Health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment	1
10.6.		Private laboratory and microbiology services directly supporting the COVID response (Cat 1) and other health services (Cat 2)	1/2

11.	Other personal, community and business services		
11.1.		Private burial and funeral services	2
11.2.		Other services related to community care, resilience and wellbeing* i.e. religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services	2
11.3.		Justice system and associated services*	3