


## Education Briefing

**Monday 15th June 2020**

### Introduction

Please continue to look out for **Primary / ELC**, **Secondary** or **Both Primary / ELC and Secondary** sections, which are all followed by [Return to Table of Contents](#). The  icon is shown where there is an item that will be of interest to your families.

Please note some especially important items **in red** in the Table of Contents below.

*In response to views expressed by schools, we are currently working on a revised approach to information sharing to ensure maximum transparency and accountability. More on this soon.*

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<b>ATTACHMENTS ACCOMPANYING THIS BRIEFING:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digital Learning Update</li> <li>• Psychological Services and PMHW Service - Menu of HWB resources</li> <li>• Discussion paper - measurable targets and learning goals</li> <li>• Early Level Play Rationale</li> <li>• P1 Transition</li> <li>• Enterprise Education</li> </ul>	

## **Primary/ELC/GME update**

### **ELC update**

Earlier this year, Education Scotland released its updated guidance for early years, *Realising the Ambition*. This reinforces the call in Curriculum for Excellence (2007) for the use of play pedagogies across the Early Level. It is important to be clear about what is meant by 'play'. In the national guidance "play" refers to the purposive, child-led exploration of an environment carefully designed to support learning, enriched by skilled adult talk and interactions. Please take the time to read the full HC Early Level Play rationale which is attached to this briefing and also the P1 transition document, also attached.

Thank you to all 1200+ who have attended our Realising the Ambition training with follow up bitesize workshops. There is still time to join sessions! Training Sessions week ahead:

- **RtA Bitesize 3:** Family Learning. Wednesday 17th June, offered at two times: 10.00-10.30am and 2.30-3.00pm. Please note: the Google Meet link will be available on the Digital Hub and in Google classes. Audience Early Years staff (including P1 teachers and Managers)
- **Words Up Wednesday:** Wednesday 17th June, 1.30pm – 2.15pm. This week's key message is Quiet Time To Talk. Join using this link <http://meet.google.com/rue-rsfq-oij>
- **Emerging Literacy:** Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th June, 1pm. Audience - Teachers who are new to Emerging literacy or would value a refresher. Before attending please watch Phonological Awareness [Training video](#), [Resources](#)

### **GME and EM update**

In line with SG document *Coronavirus (COVID-19): Curriculum for Excellence in the Recovery Phase* HC have developed following resources for GME and EM to support schools addressing attainment gap (in recovery and beyond):

- Health and Wellbeing; resources developed with menu of these resources created. Shared on HT Google classroom and Highland Digital School Hub website. (See [below](#).)
- Literacy recovery curriculum overview; CfE levels broken down into stages, with core benchmarks pulled together with hyperlinks to resources. Shared on HT Google classroom and Highland Digital School Hub website.
- Numeracy recovery curriculum overview; CfE levels broken down into stages, with core benchmarks pulled together with hyperlinks to resources. Still in draft format, to be shared asap.
- Immersion support for GME; resources gathered with Gaelic partners to support GME immersion at home.
- Play and outdoor learning; guidelines and best practice for staff gathered with resources (for in-school and in-home learning) gathered. To be shared asap.
- Refreshed Narrative for Curriculum for Excellence; materials/toolkit created that schools can use to re-refresh curriculum to reflect on recovery and support local context. Draft to be shared with area reps HTs Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June. Final version to be shared asap.

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## **Secondary curriculum update**

Thank you to all Secondary HT colleagues for their contribution to the curriculum model discussion last week. The notes from the discussion and sub groups will be posted in the HT classroom. We appreciate the complexities around planning curriculum models for August where schools aim to accommodate pupils safely in a phased return. Please refer to the email 'Communication - HT update' issued on 12 June. It details our curriculum principles for the return in August. As HTs work to confirm their school model, we will issue a proforma (due out this

week) to enable us to collate the plans across all our schools. We will also provide a planning checklist to support the further considerations and organisation of schools for the August return. Representatives from the Primary and Secondary curriculum groups have been linking with the Digital team to devise a guide to blended learning acknowledging that this will take different approaches across schools. We aim to have this available with the next HT briefing (22 June).

### **College**

Linda King will be working with the Colleges and 4 Foundation Apprenticeship providers looking at delivery going forward for August. A traffic light system will be implemented to identify which courses will be prioritised to look at the delivery model and requirements. This will consider those courses with a greater practical element. It will consider the possibilities around face to face delivery at a college, in a school and virtual delivery. As part of this process, Linda will, in the first instance, make initial contact with each Head Teacher to identify who the key person in the school is to take forward further discussions. On a positive note, in Highland, we now have all 29 secondary schools and our 3 Special Schools all engaged with either a provider or College.

### **Curriculum resources**

- Enterprise Education - please find attached details for 2 new accredited enterprise courses. The Company Programme is at SCQF level 6 and the Team programme sits at SCQF level 3.
- Plans to support a virtual school sports day through the National School Sport Week 20-26 June. Further details at <https://www.youthsporttrust.org/news/sport-sector-unites-national-school-sport-week-home>
- Education Scotland weekly publication **Scotland learns** includes resources for both Primary and Secondary -
  - <https://education.gov.scot/media/pq3noul3/parentcarernewsletterissue6.pdf>
  - <https://education.gov.scot/improvement/scotland-learns/literacy-and-english-activities/>
  - <https://education.gov.scot/improvement/scotland-learns/numeracy-and-mathematics-activities/>
  - <https://education.gov.scot/improvement/scotland-learns/health-and-wellbeing-activities/>
  - <https://education.gov.scot/improvement/scotland-learns/themed-learning-activities/>
  - <https://education.gov.scot/improvement/scotland-learns/gaelic-medium-education-foghlam-meadhan-gaidhlig/>

### **Professional learning and support**

Education Scotland have extended their online professional discussions to include subject webinars. Subjects include Numeracy/Maths (\*\*15 June), DYW, learner pathways, STEM, RME, PSE and Senior Phase Sciences. To register, click on link <https://education.gov.scot/improvement/learning-resources/practitioner-live-webinars>

The latest Northern Alliance newsletter (May 2020) can be found here <https://sway.office.com/nRKNR3jakixi8bnT?ref=Link>. It includes details of workstream leads, CPD and resources.


Our Highland PT networks are being established as a means of supporting colleagues and sharing across schools. The Northern Alliance are also looking to set up subject networks across Authorities. The recently appointed Northern Alliance Curriculum Workstream Lead (Secondary) is Craig Paterson. He has a few subject groups in the planning stages i.e. Geography, Biology, Modern Studies and History. If colleagues are interested in finding out more, please get in touch with Julie Macdonald or follow on Twitter @NAllianceScot.

### **Engaging with parents**


The Education Scotland document 'Communicating effectively with parents and families' was published on 12 June. The guide includes tips for communication with parents, the majority of

which is in evidence across Highland schools. Schools may, however, find the hyperlinks on page 2 useful supports to include in newsletters or social media links.

<https://education.gov.scot/media/1kz1zibl/communicatingwithparentsandfamilies.pdf>

 Education Scotland publish a weekly newsletter for parents called *Scotland Learns*. The link for latest edition (11 June):

<https://education.gov.scot/media/pq3noul3/parentcarernewsletterissue6.pdf>

 The National Parent Forum Scotland is hosting an online Numeracy and Mathematics session for parents to support learning at home. Details in the link below.

<https://www.npfs.org.uk/2020/06/03/learning-together-online-numeracy-and-maths-sessions-for-parents-to-support-learning-at-home/>

**Information for all colleagues who support the recording of 16+ information on SEEMiS**

SEEMiS Update for recording Activity Agreements:

We have been advised by SEEMiS and Skills Development Scotland that from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 the option to record Activity Agreement on SEEMiS as either a pupil leaving destination or preferred route on the 16+ tab or bulk entry page will be permanently removed. Any young people who are progressing onto Activity Agreement-type provision or who choose Activity Agreement as their preferred route should be marked as **‘Other Formal Training’**. Any pupils who are currently recorded under Activity Agreement will be automatically transferred to Other Formal Training.

	<b>Preferred Route Activity Agreement</b>	<b>Leaving Destination Activity Agreement</b>
Pupil information to input	Mark young people who are looking to progress to Activity Agreement-type provision as ‘Other formal Training’ in the 16+ tab or on the Bulk Entry page	Select ‘Other Formal Training’ when you mark a leaver.
Pupil information already input into SEEMiS	Activity Agreement will automatically transfer over to ‘Other Formal Training’. No action required.	Those with Activity Agreement recorded as their status will be updated to ‘Other Formal Training’. No action required.

These changes are being made to reflect the introduction of [No One Left Behind \(NOLB\)](#), the action plan for more effective and joined-up employability support. Activity Agreements, as a national employability model have stopped however the Highland AA team and the provision that they provide are now within the Highland Council Employability Service. At this current time, referrals are through the normal routes (usually through the School SDS/Career advisors) however in time the provision will be shaped to provide more of a structured pathway for young people to progress towards further training and employment. Engagement / transition planning with schools and pupils can begin up to 6 months before the young person’s leaving date.

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## **SQA Update**

Many thanks to all staff who ensured that all unit results were submitted by the deadline of 12 June. We are pleased to note that SQA communicated with local authorities where there were concerns about progress towards meeting that target: Highland Council did not receive a communication like this, because there were no such concerns here. Meeting the recent deadlines for SQA has required a huge amount of work in schools and this is very much appreciated.

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## **Communications with parents**

Please note that schools will soon receive a standard Highland Council letter for parents about the August re-opening. When received, please share this letter, unedited, with your parents/carers in the usual way. There will be separate letters for Primary/ELC and for Secondary. You will see from these letters that there are key areas listed about which schools will need to communicate with their parents when arrangements are in place.

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## **Discussion paper - measurable targets and learning goals**

Attached to this briefing is a discussion paper for use with staff in schools about the need to establish “learning goals” in tackling the key priorities for schools as we move into session 20/21. This will impact on the way schools complete the School Improvement Planning template, with the aim being to make this process more straightforward and purposeful (please note that schools do not need to be filling in that template this term - the deadline for completion is 18 September). Discussion about the learning goals described in the paper will be a key part of your engagement with the school community about curriculum recovery.

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## **ASN Transitions**

The ASN transitions document has now been completed and can be found in the HT Google Classroom for HTs to refer to as required. A copy has also been sent to the ASN Area Managers who will be in touch with the relevant link in schools to support ASN transitions. The document can be accessed by clicking here: <https://classroom.google.com/u/0/c/NTU4MDk4OTg1ODha>

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## **Psychological Services and PMHW Service - Menu of HWB resources**

The main purpose of the document attached is to provide school staff with a menu of resources which will enable them to access and utilise the range of tools and resources which have been developed by Highland Council Psychological Services and the Primary Mental Health Worker Service.

It is important that we are able to utilise the resources which have been developed in order to support mental health and wellbeing for all. The context of every school is very different, so it

may be the case that schools use each resource at very different times depending on their unique needs.

It is important to note that throughout the school closure period the Highland Council Psychological Service team and the PMHW Service have provided schools with a range of summary papers and also delivered live training opportunities on Change, Loss & Bereavement with more than 380 members of staff being trained on 1st June. Further live training is being planned for support staff and this will be communicated via the schools training calendar. The services have offered to arrange a weekly session throughout the summer which of course would be an optional support mechanism for staff. Details are still to be confirmed.

Within the pack attached the main purpose is to provide schools with the links to access information on:

- Covid-19 Information and Resources
- Training
- Supporting Learners
- Mental Health & Wellbeing
- Publications
- Meet Your Team

It is still advised that staff stay up to date with the Psychological Service site, if you subscribe you will receive alerts when new materials are posted. The service newsletter is also shared using this platform. Click here to subscribe: <https://highlandcouncilpsychologicalservice.wordpress.com/>

The Digital Hub also contains all new resources and information:

<https://sites.google.com/millburnacademy.org.uk/highlanddigitalschoolshub/wellbeing-for-all?authuser=0>.

Education Scotland has published a new professional learning activity: Supporting children and young people through grief and loss. Login via Glow:

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/scotland-learns/health-and-wellbeing-activities/the-journey-adventures-in-resilience/>

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## Reporting

The advice shared in the last briefing about not completing reports for issuing to parents this term applies to both primary and secondary. Reports which were written pre-closure would be of questionable validity now, so these should not be issued: reports tend to contain recommendations about next steps for learners, and what was written pre-closure may not be applicable in terms of ongoing work in the “recovery curriculum” where the focus is on literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing in the BGE. Issuing pre-closure reports may also create an expectation that all schools should be issuing such reports, so we ask that these are not sent out to avoid potential pressure being put on staff in other schools.

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Please ensure that you have responded to Brian by completing the details requested via his email communication. Once this information has been received and assessed, the Council will finalise its position on school trips and refunds and communicate that back to schools.

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## **Purchase Cards**

All purchase card holders will have been advised that cards expiring 31st May would NOT be auto-renewed, and schools would have to re-apply making justification for card re-issue. All card renewal applications should be sent to the Head of Resources using the form recently issued.

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**Please also see the attached weekly summary from the Digital Development Team which summarises all of the work the team has been carrying out, including new resources and training opportunities. SMT are directed to the [Google classroom](#), class code vqis5lz, for updates.**