

Date 28 February 2022

Your ref

Our ref LF/GC/280222

Dear Parents and Carers

It's lovely to be able to write to you with more positive news about how our schools and early years centres are operating under COVID and specifically, how the revised [national guidance](#) is being interpreted in Edinburgh. We have all changed our behaviours to keep COVID at bay over these past two years and it is only to be expected that some behaviours may take longer than others to adapt again, and some anxieties may be raised as a result. As with everything else, staff in schools are trained and happy to explain the new guidance, answering any questions you may have.

- **Face Coverings**
There is no requirement to wear these in secondary school **classrooms**, however anyone who wants to wear one will be fully supported
These should still be worn in communal areas or when in close contact with others
- **Assemblies and Communal Worship**
These are now able to start up fully in person, with other mitigations in place, such as good ventilation, physical distancing and face coverings if required
- **Prelims in secondary schools**
These can take place, observing the usual mitigations: ventilation, physical distancing and face coverings as required
- **Transitions**
Transition visits, including, for example, those for 'enhanced transition' for learners with additional support needs, can take place if appropriately risk assessed. The annual primary-secondary transition visits are due to take place in person, in June – we are delighted to report!

Although we are all relieved to be moving into more 'normal' ways of working, we are still experiencing high numbers of cases in schools and early years centres. The relaxation

Communities and Families Directorate

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of certain rules is still within a context of care and consideration for others. With your support we have managed very well so far, and I am confident our careful, steady relaxation of rules will see us safely through to Easter, and beyond.

Please get in touch if you want to discuss any of these issues with your child's Headteacher or Head of Centre in the first instance or contact me directly if preferred.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lorna French". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Lorna" written in a slightly larger and more prominent hand than the surname "French".

Lorna French

Acting Head of Schools and Lifelong Learning