

# The Good Shepherd Centre



**Education Recovery Information**

**Academic Year 2020 - 2021**

## Welcome Back

Dear Pupils, Parents and Carers

We are all delighted that we are able to return to full-time Education for pupils on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2020, with enhanced health and safety measures in place that follow the current public health and government advice.

As you know, the GSC school has remained open for the entire duration of the COVID-19 pandemic, providing Pupils with continuous education, support and stability throughout.

During this time, things looked a bit different.

Pupils came to school in smaller House groups because, to keep everyone safe we have had to space people out in the classrooms and keep Pupils in their 'social bubbles'.

Some of our Teachers were unable to be at work because they required to shield, and this meant we operated a shorter school day and a later start in the morning.

We made sure that we built time into the day for well-being, using both the classroom and outdoor environment to undertake activities and lessons.

We invited Pupils back who had left school and moved to further education but were no longer able to attend college due to Lockdown.

During this time we saw an increase in attainment due to the considerable hard work of our Pupils and we asked their opinion about what they felt has been positive about the temporary changes we made and how can we learn from this in the future.

This Back to School Guide has been developed to provide you with information and to support a safe return to school for all Pupils and Staff.

We know that returning to school is a big step and many will have mixed feelings about the transition. We wish to reassure you that nurture, care and wellbeing will be central to our work in supporting Pupils reconnect with staff, peers and learning.

We look forward to this academic year as we resume some stability and normality after such a long period of uncertainty.

- Education Leadership Team

## Arrangements for the School Day

### Timetabling

The following timetabling model will be used to maintain physical and social distancing.

Cohort 1	Cohort 2
Lyle House	Nevis House
Kilpatrick House	Lomond House
	Hillview Cottage
9:00 am to 9:30 am (Nurture Period)	9:00 am to 9:30 am (Nurture Period)
9:30 am to 10:20 am (Period 1)	9:30 am to 10:20 am (Period 1)
10:20 am to 11:10 am (Period 2)	10:20 am to 11:10 am (Period 2)
11:10 am to 11:25 am (Break)	11:10 am to 11:25 am (Break)
11:25 am to 12:20 pm (Period 3)	11:25 am to 12:20 pm (Period 3)
12:20 pm to 1:15 pm (Period 4)	12:20 pm to 1:15 pm (Period 4)
1:15 pm to 2:00 pm (Lunch)	1:15 pm to 2:00 pm (Lunch)
2:00 pm to 2:55 pm (Period 5)	2:00 pm to 2:55 pm (Period 5)
2:55 pm to 3:50 pm (Period 6)	2:55 pm to 3:50 pm (Period 6)
<b>Cohort 1 will attend classes in Zone A</b>	<b>Cohort 1 will attend classes in Zone B</b>
<b>Zone A Classes</b> PE Hall Fitness Suite Art Maths Spanish Social Subjects HE Tech PSHE Maths	<b>Zone B Classes</b> Science ICT English Outdoor Learning Salon Employability Media Sports Pitch

Each cohort will swap zones daily to ensure that they have full access to the curriculum.

## Shared Spaces in the School

### Physical Distancing

Because the evidence on physical distancing is less clear for older pupils (aged 12 and above), GSC will encourage distancing, where possible, between each pupil and between all Pupils and adults.

- Pupils should remain in the same consistent groups wherever possible. Consistent groups reduce the likelihood of direct transmission, allow for quicker identification of those who need to self-isolate and may reduce the overall number of Pupils and staff who need to isolate in the event of a positive test due to COVID-19.
- Large gathering of groups of pupils will be avoided. Where this is required, it should be for less than 15 minutes.
- School assemblies will not be possible and similarly high-risk activities such as whole centre events will not be permitted unless the guidance changes from Public Health.
- PE will be carefully planned and will take place outdoors **where possible**.
- There requires to be physical distancing of 2 metres between adults and Pupils wherever possible.
- Classrooms and other rooms throughout the school will have an occupancy maximum clearly displayed on the door and inside the room.
- There will be a maximum of 3 pupils and one member of staff to every class.



## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Face Coverings

In most circumstances, face coverings or other PPE will not be needed when in school. But, anyone in GSC (child or adult) who wish to wear a face covering is allowed to do so. Pupils or adults who need to wear a face covering or other PPE for clinical reasons will be supported to do so. This may include wearing a face mask, a face covering and/or a visor. If the number of coronavirus cases in Scotland starts rising again, nationally or in local areas, we may ask school staff and older Pupils to wear face coverings in school. We will keep you updated about these and any other changes.



## Sharing of Resources

Resources should not be shared between Pupils *where possible*.

Where resources are shared it will be the responsibility of the class teachers to ensure a cleaning system is in place between groups





## How will GSC support Pupils' Health, Wellbeing and Emotional Needs?

Support for the health and well-being of Pupils, with a focus on nurture and resilience, will be at the heart of what we undertake this year.

Our regular WEduCare Meetings will help to ensure that our services are co-ordinated, joined up and that our multi-disciplinary response to children and Pupils who require support is readily accessible and available at all times.

If you think that a Young person may need extra support, or if you are worried about a Young Person's health and wellbeing, contact us as soon as you can to discuss what might help.





## Practical activities, sport and music

Practical, 'hands-on' learning and activities, experiments and investigations are an important part of many subjects. Our Teachers will adapt how they teach lessons to allow Pupils to do such activities safely.

Sport and physical activities are important for Pupil's physical and mental health now and in the future. We are constantly considering how we can best use our outdoor space to allow Pupils to take part in sport and physical activities in line with national guidance.

Scientific and medical advice is still being developed for safely returning to activities such as singing, talking loudly (for example in drama), or playing wind/brass instruments.

## Reporting on progress

Teachers at GSC will keep you up to date with progress through detailed 10 weekly updates of Individualised Education Plan (IEP's) and Reports. We expect that standard of our reports will provide clear, positive and constructive feedback about Pupil's learning and progress, looking back on what has been achieved against standards and expectations.

Parents evenings may be done differently during the next school term, and we will keep you updated on these arrangements.

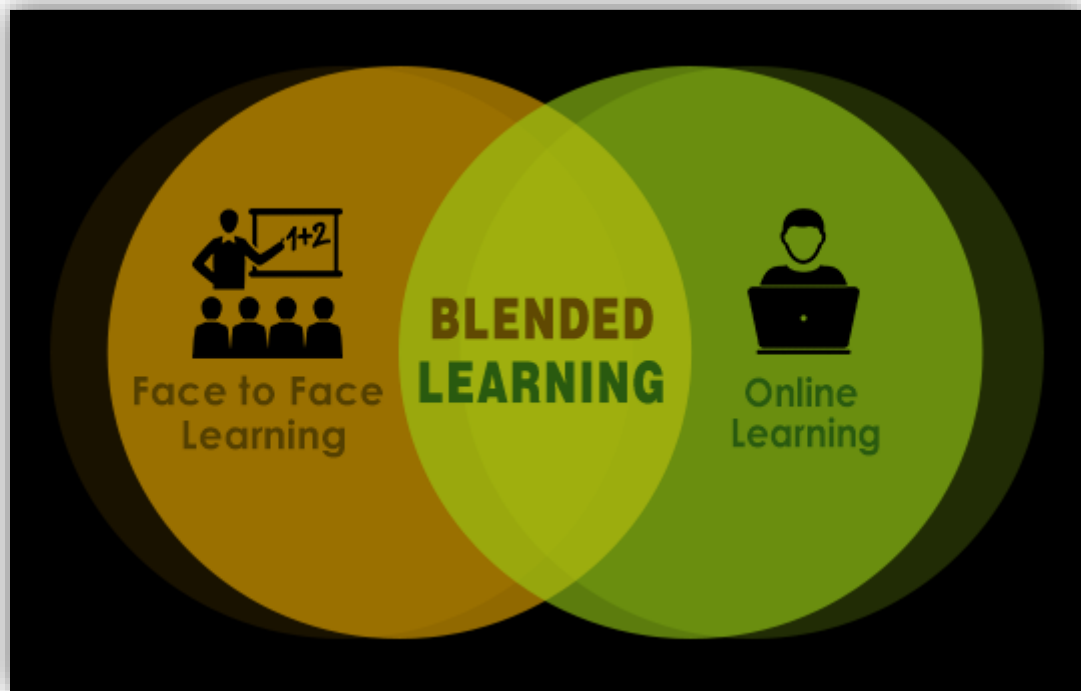




## Digital/ Blended Learning

Blended learning is an approach to education that combines online educational materials and opportunities for interaction online with traditional classroom teaching.

All schools have a responsibility to incorporate digital learning into their Recovery Plan. GSC is part of a collaborative workstream with the 5 secure care centres in Scotland and Education Scotland that will build on the work that was undertaken GSC during the closure of mainstream schools.



## **For your Awareness**

Our Management team has been meeting twice every week since 4 March about Covid-19 and we monitor our actions and update contingency plans in line with any new guidance from the NHS and/or UK and Scottish Government at the meetings

- We are keeping all staff informed, involved and updated including at regular team meetings and briefings to make sure that everyone understands and keeps to the rules about preventing Covid-19 spread
- We are supporting and encouraging all Pupils and ensuring all our staff take additional stringent care in following the Government and NHS guidelines for Covid-19 including effective handwashing and physical distancing
- We are holding nearly all meetings by video link or phone rather than in person and we cancelled all events from March to June in line with government guidance. We work hard to ensure physical distancing, so people are two metres apart within the houses, cottages, school, at meetings and in office spaces. We have stopped all visits to the centre unless absolutely necessary, for example medical clinicians.
- We have robust cleaning and disinfection regimes in place and have invested in a Deep Cleaning programme of shared living areas like kitchens, living rooms, office spaces and classrooms and we will continue this programme through the summer.
- We are working very closely with Public Health and Protection and relevant NHS colleagues to ensure adequate and appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies for staff where these are needed. We share the most up to date advice from clinicians to make sure that if any Pupil or adult has Covid-19 symptoms, we are quickly able to isolate them from other people and make sure they are tested for Covid-19 and that everyone is kept safe.

## **Final note**

There have been many new and exciting ways of learning throughout these difficult times and there are a lot of things that we would like to keep doing.

We are hopeful that we can all return to full time safely and restart the amazing educational experiences that makes our school so special.

We don't know quite what things will look like going forward but we hope that the virus continues to be suppressed to the point that we can return to the whole centre interdisciplinary events that we all enjoy so much.

If you have any questions regarding any aspect of the GSC's education recovery plans, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind Regards

Team GSC

