

**Parent Q&A with Deputy First Minister John Swinney**  
**Parent Views and Questions in Live Chat Discussion**  
**(16<sup>th</sup> June 2020)**

00:44:50 Why is the Scottish Government persisting with this stance when countries such as Denmark and now France have all decided that it is they believe there is minimal risk to children and all schools are back now? The mental impact that this is having on children and parents is substantial and will impact for years to come - there is going to be significant unemployment as employers can not /will not accommodate this ridiculous situation as they will go bust!

00:45:14 What is the eLearning from Education Scotland? Will it be rolled out nationally to ensure equity of education and learning for pupils or will schools continue to offer their own level of home learning through various platforms

00:46:24 Councils asked to come up with plans which involved no extra costs this is shocking there are hundreds of teachers with no jobs going into new teacher year

00:47:04 Nicola Sturgeon said on Monday that councils need to be Creative and Innovative to ensure children return to school for at least 50% of the time. Many councils, including South Lanarkshire Council, who has today confirmed that Primary school children will only be returning 40% of the time. They have neither been creative or innovative in their approach to be returning children to school. What will you do about this?

00:47:50 Why is Glasgow city council secondary schools only having its pupils in school 5 days per week for 2 and a half hours per day as this isn't feasible for single working parents?

00:48:07 Why the difference in the amount of time being offered to children in school across the different local authorities?

00:48:13 Why are we not making better use of community centres and communications programs such as zoom to provide learning? Full time working parents can't be expected to hold down a full time job and home school! this is going to have a detrimental effect on both children and adults mental health.

00:48:27 As an essential worker for the NHS who is expected to work, as well as my husband who is a keyworker in the travel industry. How am I meant to manage childcare? Neither of us have the luxury to work from home.

00:48:40 I am the parent of 4. My eldest has severe autism. Are you really equating your challenges in terms of learning with mine?

00:49:30 What steps will be taken to mitigate the impact of learning lost during the coronavirus pandemic and beyond on the 2021 exam diet?

00:49:32 The most recent scientific data states that transmission of Covid19 from children is minimum as main transmission is between adults, given this why are we not returning to education full time?

00:49:51 Given the risks to children are small could the social distance rule be reduced to 1m in school only, thus allowing more pupils to attend?

00:49:55 Are the SG going to issue guidelines and/or legislation for employers to treat their employees fairly with the needs of Blended Learning?

00:49:56 My partner and myself are both key workers. Our children will now be spending 3 days a week in a keyworker hub with no learning support. I will need to somehow support my kids with 3 days of learning at night and weekends?

00:49:57 Is there scientific evidence that children are super spreaders? I don't believe there is so why are we not returning to fulltime education?

00:50:00 Schools are supposed to have pupils in 50% of the time, but this is not possible if the school cannot fit half the pupils in at any one time due to social distancing and a complete lack of space to allow for this. As a result, there will be a significant number of children who will be in school considerably less than 50% of the time.

00:50:01 If schools have the space to accommodate all pupils within guidance rules why not have them all back?

00:50:05 Education has been minimal from teachers it's been mainly parent teaching.

00:50:12 We need to ensure that all the young people who had their exams cancelled and left with NO school work, nothing to do in the last 4 months and anxious about results...Why are you not prioritising these people they are very much the forgotten ones?

00:50:18 My daughter is autistic, and the lockdown has had such a detrimental effect on her. Blended learning is simply impossible. There has been no support for parents of children with additional needs. Autistic children need to be in the school with their (wonderful) specialist teachers.

00:50:20 Have the conversations with employers started regarding flexible working to support this "blended learning" started? If not when will they start?

00:50:26 1 child to 1 parent = easy. Teaching a range of ages, along with entertaining early years children to fit in and trying to running a business. Not easy. Your challenge with 1 child, and 2 parents in the house, not similar.

00:50:26 Why are children attending special schools who realistically cannot socially distance but are already in very small classes being asked to reduce attendance to 50%. Given the immense negative impact no school, routines is having on disabled children combined with the fact that blended learning will not work for a vast majority of these children.

00:50:42 My kids teachers have been great providing tasks but how on earth are they meant to keep up all that work and in school too?

00:50:52 Who is going to support the home learning when teachers will be teaching 4 days per week face to face in Fife?

00:51:10 What about autistic children awaiting a tribunal that has been postponed due to Covid? We have been left with NOTHING....not even a hello from anyone asking how our child has been coping. What are you going to do to make sure lost children are also not being ignored during this Covid crisis?

- 00:51:13 Would the DFM agree that local authorities should be doing everything possible to support schools to provide for the health and wellbeing of children as they return to school this year? Including providing additional teaching staff where required.
- 00:51:16 You may call this blended learning, however, is it not just part time education?
- 00:51:37 Can't teachers provide real-time lessons, via Glow, so that kids have structure and routine? this has been woefully missing.
- 00:51:40 Thank you to everyone in Education
- 00:51:47 Blended learning for those with any learning support need equates to a part time timetable. My very able (of 4) is thriving. Where is the equity?
- 00:51:48 What support is being provided to rural located schools etc?
- 00:51:48 All of these on the poll have been challenging, the most has been working online on our own, motivating our children and balancing home schooling and work
- 00:52:00 If 50% is part time learning, what is your PLAN B and PLAN C?
- 00:52:02 This isn't blended learning - its part-time learning and those children without parental support are extremely disadvantaged
- 00:52:13 Children and young people with ADHD need more support for home learning. As a working parent I can't support my children's learning and keep a roof over our heads it simply isn't possible. Blended Learning will not work for our children. The last three months have proved that.
- 00:52:19 Blended learning doesn't work for Primary age children. Children need to return full-time in August.
- 00:52:21 Pre-school aged children with additional needs have been forgotten. Very limited to non existent support. No external support due to their young age.
- 00:52:24 Sorry - I thought this would be a grown up conversation however it appears already this is a pile on - so disappointing - we all need to be constructive, agile and flexible. We also have responsibilities as parents, school isn't childcare
- 00:52:29 There seems to be inconsistency. I am aware that the councils in Fife and West Lothian are proposing two days a week for learning - can you confirm that there will be consistency with Edinburgh i.e. the same proposal min. two days a week in school?
- 00:52:36 Blending Learning = Part Time Learning
- 00:52:41 As return to school plans come to the fore, the general trend for occupancy figures on any one day seems to be less than 50%, and some schools have said pupils may only be in school once per week. Are ScotGov intending to review the forecasted attendance and intervene/support where necessary to improve some of these initial attendance figures? The reason they are so low is because of the social distancing guidance. Are ScotGov going to update their guidance to LA's given the science is always evolving in this respect? Are ScotGov looking at countries like Denmark?
- 00:52:57 The language of blended learning is Orwellian. I understand it - I am a teacher.

- 00:53:01      What about children that blending learning is not accessible to. We haven't been offered it by the school and essentially at lockdown my son received no Education.
- 00:53:03      For families whose parents both work full time there will be no blended learning, it's unfair on our kids that we have to work in essential roles, not through choice
- 00:53:08      It's not learning, it's revision
- 00:53:09      But no teacher support
- 00:53:34      Working parents can't support their children's learning at home how do you propose to support our children?
- 00:53:46      Blended learning benefits the able. What about other pupils?
- 00:53:48      Is blended learning - the element of home school is that going to be by teachers or parents?
- 00:53:49      Will interactive online learning finally become a part of blended learning?
- 00:53:51      Our schools have been great.
- 00:53:58      Hoping that once the kids get back into school and get clear direction from the teachers that the home learning part will be clearer.
- 00:54:07      I work 4 days, my children are in school two days. How on earth can I teach them at home after a busy day at work and weekends are our rest time?
- 00:54:08      Each school delivering their own material for home? or resources supplied nationally to support teachers?
- 00:54:09      Proper blended learning is structured and supported, this has not been the case in primary.
- 00:54:22      In other countries, pupils have to login and follow a timetable. They have structure and routine. Self serve isn't working.
- 00:54:24      Why is the Scottish Government seeking to increase the learning gap?
- 00:54:26      Can you guarantee that Literacy and Numeracy will be the focus during school attendance, and NOT the aspects that parents will find easy - ie health and well-being and PE?
- 00:54:28      Firstly, I appreciate this is a huge learning curve for everyone including teachers. Our experience to date is that there is a huge variance in teacher's approach with some truly embracing remote and interactive learning whilst others have essentially left pupils to self-teach. This is extremely concerning during exam years. What is the plan to protect our senior pupils and ensure consistency and accountability in approach to remote teaching?
- 00:54:30      Our children need to recover emotionally and mentally before any expectation on academic learning in a new class / school. They should be returning to their original school / class until October, then transition. This will allow a comfortable return to the academic environment

with opportunity for transitions. We need to Get This Right For our children, it will impact the rest of their life.

00:54:31 What happens to the children of keyworkers who will be unable to undertake the 3 days of home learning?

00:54:36 I have been told home learning will be checked once a week within a half day, how is that possibly going to provide quality feedback to the children?

00:54:38 Should we not start last year again?

00:54:42 Realistically social distancing will not be as big a requirement in society so why still in schools???

00:54:43 Our school has been rubbish, 1 phone call in 12 weeks. Very basic google classroom work....which reminds me of yahoo groups from 1997.

00:54:46 What about children with additional needs? how will they be supported with their learning?

00:54:50 Why has there been no consultation with parents about what they feel is right for them and the children. We are living in a dictatorial world where there is only one way - that of the Scottish government rather than one that offers parents to make the choices they deem best. How about giving us the choice where children can go to school or where those who don't want to send kids can then utilise the so-called digital learning that you claim is on offer.

00:54:52 How can subject such as practical subjects for senior phases be taught in 2 and a half hours per day?

00:55:02 Highland region have had NO covid cases for the last 15 days. There are No children aged up to age 15 who have contracted covid. Therefore why is Highland region not being opened up and schools back to normal? Can the evidence be published regarding social distancing being 2M and also EIS Larry Flannigan stated even if SG reduced the social distancing they would still be recommending 2m. How does SG plan to support those children with ASN/disabilities getting back into school settings? How does is possibly 2 days a wk going to be of benefit to them and also changes to staffing etc How can you identify children/YP with possible dyslexia or indeed those children/YP with dyslexia?

00:55:08 Children need face to face classroom learning. To say that teachers are revelling in the opportunity to develop blended learning and insinuate that its anything close to the same experience as within a school environment is a stretch at best.

00:55:10 Has an equality impact assessment been commissioned about this?

00:55:23 It may be a fantastic way to deliver education but not for my ADHD and autistic child. It's far too much change to take in. It's taken the full lockdown till last week before he will do tiny bits of work, and that's only in a childcare setting my council put my kids into because all our mental health was and still is suffering

00:55:25 What does the scientific advice actually tell us for phase 4?

00:55:44 Why 2 metres? Loads of other countries have low R and 1.5-1 metre?

- 00:55:48 Give us the scientific advice you are being given - publish it with proven data.
- 00:55:56 Lauren Ford: So, if advice says go ahead before the 11th August, will you allow us to go back to normal or will you stick with this plan no matter what?
- 00:55:57 WHO advice is 1 m not 2 m
- 00:55:58 Has the impact of blended learning actually been considered especially to children with additional needs that require structure, The whole situation currently has been disruptive to all children and does have long term implications for their mental wellbeing?
- 00:55:58 Need greater clarity on the frequently referenced 'scientific advice'
- 00:56:05 What is the basis for Scottish Government's scientific advice? Please can you identify the source
- 00:56:09 The attainment gap between state schools and private schools is going to be enormous, this could seriously disadvantage kids applications for university from less privileged backgrounds. Private schools seem to be able to utilise online classrooms which state schools haven't accessed. I don't understand why a full time timetable can't be achieved using zoom or its equivalents.
- 00:56:09 Blended learning will not work within an ASN environment, what plans are in place especially those lost while awaiting tribunal?
- 00:56:25 If there was no wave amongst pupils when schools were open, why would it happen now?
- 00:56:28 How much scope to Local Authorities have to choose how often/how long for pupils spend in school which might deviate from Scottish Government guidelines?
- 00:56:34 Need scientific debate about SD in general and for this to be absolutely transparent
- 00:56:38 As a key worker for the NHS I desperately want to support my child with school work at home, however I am unable to do this due to the commitments of my job.
- 00:56:40 what about the kids who are living with shielded people?
- 00:56:40 This scientific advice should be open to challenge. Look at the continent, Denmark etc.
- 00:56:44 So what will be the criteria for moving beyond phase 4 and returning to normal schooling?
- 00:56:45 Will the return to full time schooling mean 5 days a week?
- 00:56:57 Why is the Scottish Government refusing to hold Councils to account?
- 00:57:03 Why can't community centres and church halls be used so our kids are not missing going without on days they are meant to be home?

00:57:09 For children and young people who were already struggling with their mental health how do you propose to support them and their families after this when CAMHS was already at breaking point before COVID-19?

00:57:13 Why are the private schools offering 5 days?

00:57:24 Relax/get rid of the 2m rule!

00:57:31 Why are we going back a week early?

00:57:31 What if there is never a vaccine?

00:57:32 WHO state that we could be using a 1m distancing - why are we not following their scientific advice.

00:57:34 A vaccine for COVID19 may never be found

00:57:35 If we take nothing else from this, perhaps it should be that class sizes are too big to begin with. Countries with smaller class sizes don't have this issue, neither do private schools with smaller class sizes.

00:57:48 A vaccine for COVID19 may never be found.

00:57:49 So if the 2m rule is reduced before august schools can return, 8 weeks is a long time

00:57:50 We might never have a vaccine...

00:57:52 We may never have a vaccine - does that mean schools wont go back full time until we get one, if ever?

00:57:53 Why does our education minister have such a low level of ambition for our children?

00:57:55 Are you saying that we are waiting on a Vaccine for full time education to return??

00:57:55 Were never going to have a vaccine, never had one for any other coronavirus.....so there we have it, never going back to school for year and years and years.

00:57:56 From a mother of a high risk child thank you for keeping our kids safe

00:57:58 So for how long - if no vaccine are we saying this is the model for the long term?

00:58:02 I asked for a commitment that if we are in phase 4, as looks likely, that they need to commit to opening the schools are normal. He has avoided being specific

00:58:03 The WHO have recommended that the distance should be 1m

00:58:06 Private schools have funds to pay for 5 days councils asked schools to come up with plans which require no additional costs

00:58:13 are we looking to what is happening in schools in other countries?

00:58:13 There is no single scientific view that 2m is necessary. WHO say 1m. That would be a low risk game changer for our kids.

00:58:15 I'm sorry but I do not agree with this approach

00:58:17 Child to child transmission is very low

00:58:20 I am working full time from home and my husband is a key worker so there is no one through the day to help our S5 son with his and being able to support him through this critical year. He is having no video contact with school whatsoever.

00:58:20 we will have a wave of seasonal flu and the Scottish government will call it covid to keep schools closed

00:58:25 why not work to have better covid testing in schools for staff and pupils

00:58:26 Children are suffering

00:58:26 A vaccine for COVID19 may never be found. We cannot plan on the basis of a cure or a vaccine

00:58:29 I note that development days are being protected for teachers because these are a contractual obligation. I am contractually obliged to work 35 hours a week which is virtually impossible while trying to homeschool my young children. Can the DFM understand why we feel there has been a lack of innovation from local authorities and that a disproportionate amount of flexibility is expected of parents.

00:58:30 Be mindful neither of the panellists are to blame for Coronavirus and this is about all children regardless of a disability or not

00:58:33 We were told that the schools were closed to help flatten the curve to protect the NHS not that they would be closed until the virus had been eradicated!!!

00:58:39 How can 5 year old children be expected to keep a 2m distance?

00:58:39 Many young people are already meeting up in groups and not social distancing from each other...after 6 weeks of summer holidays doing this, what difference will social distancing make in schools? If the answer is none, why not return all kids to school full time...if there is no sharp rise after summer hols

00:58:43 I accept the 2m rule and part time schooling. I don't accept schools not using technology to deliver real time remote lessons!!

00:58:48 Thank you to all the teachers who have been a great support during this time. I think what we should be focussing on what is safe for our children and supporting that scientific evidence. I am sure it benefits no one to have children out of school any longer than necessary it has to be based on our situation not other countries. Many children have conditions such as asthma, diabetes, safety must come first!

00:58:48 How this 2m distance will be implemented in the school building?



00:58:57 Children are not know to super spreaders as they are in relation to flu, and we do not close schools during flu season so if this is the case then surely we need to review the need for children to social distance

00:58:59 I don't agree that the 2m rule should be shortened, there is no way you could stand 1 meter away from someone without spreading it

00:59:01 Can you define 'SAFE' What levels do we require to get to for it to be deemed safe? R number prior to lockdown was 4-6 currently R number is 0.6-0.8. Therefore did any children in Scotland of school age contact Corona Virus prior to lockdown? Measles and small pox are more contagious to children than Covid and we don't close schools? Was the closure of schools indeed legal and proportionate?

00:59:01 There is no evidence to show kids are superspreaders. Look at the report yesterday from Alasdair's Munro, UK's Lessing Paediatric Infectious Disease expert:  
<https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1272612343726440449.html>

00:59:05 I would agree that the gap between those can afford to pay for education and those who can't is going to grow and part of that is to do with state schools not being prepared to do video teaching because teachers do not feel comfortable doing so. is there a plan to try and obtain some consistency?

00:59:08 There needs to be an equal approach across the board and I feel this is where a lot of parents are getting annoyed

00:59:09 Response only happened due to parental pressure.

00:59:11 3 weeks is too long a review period. Why not more frequently specifically for schools.

00:59:16 Phase 4 = normal activity so why not say back to full-time schooling. Please answer the question

00:59:17 But we can all go on a jolly to the pub but the kids cant go to school?

00:59:18 There is no consistency

00:59:28 The Urgent Question at Westminster yesterday regarding 2m distancing explained that reducing from 2m to 1m that increases the risk of transmission between 2x and 10x. The World Health Organisation has said that when looking at that other measures need to be considered such as face coverings and glass/Perspex screens. Is this the same advice that the Scottish Government is considering?

00:59:28 UK Government are looking at reducing the 2m rule now. The WHO already recommends maintaining a 1m distance?

00:59:30 Protests were allowed. . . ??

00:59:33 More scrutiny is needed!!!!

00:59:49 SHIELDED PARENTS?? Is it deemed safe to school?

01:00:01 Staff are adults who can spread it and take it home. They need to be kept safe too. - for all those stating children don't spread. It's not in place just for the children.

01:00:03 in countries where children have returned to school there has been no impact on R rate, so 2m rule not a good response

01:00:14 Why do children have to bear the brunt of this clumsy lockdown? Coronavirus is a problem for a minority the elderly with certain health problems

01:00:16 Can the DFM give a clear and specific timeline to parents from the point that the 'guidance on 2m and other elements changes' specifically how quickly from this point will children increase their days in school. This type of planning should simply be done now and this expectation shared with parents - you do not have to wait for the science to change to then think about when children will increase their time in school.

01:00:44 surely if no numbers by august the schools could return on a full time basis ?

01:00:45 50% should be 2.5 days, given that children normally attend 5 days per week. That would mean all children would in effect have to attend on the same day, some morning and some afternoon to achieve 50% at school. how can that be possible?

01:00:47 If older kids who can social distance have to do it at all times at school to keep them safe, will younger children at nursery who can't social distance be safe ?

01:00:53 Yes but the WHOLE of Edinburgh has been told 33% no school to school

01:00:54 Will the Scottish government commit to now bowing to parent pressure, reducing the social distancing?

01:00:56 we also have a corrupt local council who will do anything to save money

01:00:58 Total lack of ambition.

01:01:04 So small schools can have a proper education, Edinburgh gets 33%?

01:01:07 That's not equitable

01:01:11 Utilise other spaces for those schools with higher no pupils???

01:01:12 Yes but there are lots of other buildings and halls that could be used why not?

01:01:14 What thought has been given to additional needs students who are in mainstream schooling. My Son runs, hides and often acts dangerously when overwhelmed. My son is unable to remember and follow social distancing rules without constant supervision. How do can my son and his teachers and PSA safely be assured?

01:01:17 Why can't community centres and church halls be used so our kids are not missing going without on days they are meant to be home

01:01:18 Councils cannot be trusted - they are budget holders.

01:01:21 Sadly our school is sitting at 157% capacity and parents have been asking our local council to address this problem for many years to no avail.

01:01:33 Fife Council say no matter what capacity, primary schools will only be given 2 days face-to-face

01:01:34 To the other attendee who cite only elderly with underlying health problems ..... there are more people than you think that are vulnerable - not just elderly

01:01:36 So then if some children will have more formal schooling what about the ones who get less, where is the support for them

01:01:36 Many remote Highland and Island communities have no cases - so why not all back to school immediately?

01:01:36 I like many other parents that I know will never allow my daughter to have any of your vaccinations so what do you propose for these children - never allow them to return to school? We have always had viruses and illnesses in our world that come and go so why have we never shut schools when there has been a flu pandemic? Your arguments are flawed and totally irrelevant based on studies coming in from elsewhere in Europe.

01:01:37 My daughter's school is looking at offering 1.5 days learning in school a week, how can we ensure that she receives the learning that she needs to begin her secondary school journey properly?

01:01:38 Some councils are telling their staff that they will only allow 33% of children into the schools - even if there is room for more!

01:01:38 what about the kids who are living with shielded people?

01:01:38 But they asked for a plan going forward with no extra costs

01:01:40 In Dundee all schools look to be getting different times in school therefore a postcode lottery on how much schooling each child will get. Is this fair??

01:01:42 So an unfair system! some children will receive more professional education and for how long

01:01:42 Could the school day be lengthened, to accommodate more time over 2 days. Hopefully the day won't be cut short - to say 9,30, to 2pm, as has been suggested in some areas?

01:01:45 DFM this proves a point that the majority of our schools are working with far too big class sizes / schools that are too small for the number of pupils attending

01:01:46 the last example we want to follow is Westminster

01:01:46 can we just listen a little, there seem to be lots of public health experts on here, and people who want guarantees about the future... don't think the DFM is clairvoyant!

01:01:48 there just seems to be a lack of actually hoping and planning for best case scenario which is of course kids back at school full time!!

01:01:48 scientific evidence reveals that physical distancing in children is not required- where is the evidence and can it be published, I have sent him papers to the contrary-clearly not read

01:01:49 I don't trust them to have my children's education at heart

01:01:49 Thank you for all the work you are doing to keep our children and families safe. Our biggest challenge is balancing full time working from home and providing good levels of homeschooling to our kids. It's definitely been a challenge a big worry now this is going to be going on for the foreseeable future.

01:01:50 Our school will not have sufficient space to accommodate 50% of learners, where do you expect that additional space and therefore staffing to come from

01:01:51 Edinburgh is ridiculous. Friday doesn't exist and children will only be in one day a week. Home learning has been absent so far so in effect it is another year of no education

01:01:51 When will the Government take control of this?

01:02:00 Our school is 50% and today sent out a twitter message to select the days, no correspondence from the school teachers, it really is terrible

01:02:03 Secondary schools are having all children attend 5 days a week - just either mornings only or afternoons only...surely this means they are all exposed to the same risk rather than halving the risk by keeping the 2 groups on separate days?

01:02:04 The capacity is a particular issue in certain local authority areas - it shouldn't be OK for schools to consistently run at over 90% capacity. The size of classrooms (particularly in new build schools) and therefore the space per pupil has been decreasing too so no wonder we've got an issue with any kind of social distancing!

01:02:05 what happens if we refuse to send kids to school for the pointless 2 and a half hours per day at school

01:02:07 Rural LAs will have much bigger problems getting kids to school. Will there be extra money for extra school busses?

01:02:09 Can you confirm the ScotGov meaning of blended learning?

01:02:10 do you have any examples of any authority using non school spaces?

01:02:11 Why did DFM not require Local Authorities to look at vacant public spaces MONTHS AGO? Why are you only doing that now, two weeks before the summer holiday?

01:02:14 So where is the investment to increase capacity for those schools that don't have the physical space to have all children in full-time?

01:02:17 There shouldn't be a postcode lottery between different LA's

01:02:20 And once you have the extra space, where are you going to find the extra staff? There is already a shortage

01:02:22        there is no alternative accommodation in our area and our council are not currently engaging or at least sharing their views with parents about this.

01:02:26        As a grandmother and Director of a charity that works with the Sikh Community in Edinburgh. I have been listening to families who have all said that the support from schools has varied depending on which area the school is situated. Juggling family life and keeping mentally healthy has been a real issue, many of the families we work with , the main carer is the mother many have struggled and still are due to lack of support with their children's education. In general they have problems with supporting their children with day to day homework, we have no idea how people are coping. We are a small charity working with the Sikh Community in Edinburgh only. Scottish Government needs to take into consideration the needs of ethnic children from across all groups. Many were struggling before Covid equally we have children who fall into the Autlistic .ADHAD groups who have very little support just as many families from mainstream Scottish community have said in their comments.

01:02:28        it's clear that the scientific advice needs to be debated and reviewed as a matter of URGENCY. This is where the problems are stemming from.

01:02:28        Will local authorities be scrutinised?

01:02:29        The proposal for my child is 2.5 hrs per week!!!! This is inequitable, without further funding LAs, can't do anything to expand capacity.

01:02:31        Government needs to be more closely involved with each LA as it doesn't feel like increasing school estate is being considered by all LAs.

01:02:32        hundreds of teachers have no jobs as you have more students every year than jobs

01:02:32        so our children in state schools attending only 33% of the time will be severely disadvantaged when compared to their private school counterparts

01:02:40        How is this adhering to the education act children are entitled to an education where they can meet there potential. This doesn't sound sustainable.

01:02:46        will you set a national minimum time that children must be in school to ensure fairness

01:02:46        Highland region slashed ASN support/PSAs last year in that some schools support dropped by 33%. We have a recruitment freeze and also difficulty normally of recruiting teachers etc normally. How therefore do the SG plnn on supporting children with ASN/disabilities who are already disproportionately disadvantaged already and how will the attainment gap be even marginally closed

01:02:49        Have recently-retired teachers been recruited, in a similar way that healthcare workers were?

01:02:49        SG should be stipulating the curriculum and standard of the home schooled portion of education. The disparity between schools even within the same local authority has been huge during lockdown.

- 01:02:51 My local authority (West Dunbartonshire) has not yet declared what the blend of in school/at home will look like. With the school holidays pending, how will it be possible for our headteachers/teaching staff to prepare for returning in August?
- 01:02:55 Schools are for education not childcare
- 01:03:00 Where is the Right to an Education?
- 01:03:02 Who is going to pay for all of these additional spaces? You are already running a bust economy that is going to suffer significant job losses so can we expect to all face significant increases in council tax, income tax, VAT etc.
- 01:03:04 No the school day can not be lengthened as teachers are not machines and they also have children themselves! Get a grip!!!
- 01:03:10 We need to utilise online learning not other buildings, why not teach on Glow or Teams?
- 01:03:13 If there is a difference in F2F contact across different LAs/schools, how can there be equity when it comes to exams etc.?
- 01:03:22 There are extra staff there, they have been refused permanent jobs and been placed on supply which means schools can use them as they please with no need to pay them over the holidays
- 01:03:28 I find it concerning that children's safety and wellbeing is so far behind parents ability to balance with work!
- 01:03:30 We have 8 weeks to get disclosure for all the parents who don't work and can volunteer in school to provide activities between formal teaching sessions, allowing all children to be in full time
- 01:03:30 there are lots of teachers out of jobs that can be employed in the short term
- 01:03:32 Zoom real time teaching is essential if the children cannot get into class, every day, for substantial time. Currently only private /a small number of pupils with additional needs children are receiving teacher contact.
- 01:03:33 the issue could be that 3rd sector halls and centres are already being burdened by their new approaches, they may not have space to give.
- 01:03:34 Scandinavian schools are now all open. In Sweden minimum spread has been found to take place in schools, between pupils and teachers with no social distancing put in place. Results indicating that teachers and pupils are at minimum risk can surely not justify school closures for such a long time?
- 01:03:38 Increasing school estate is not an option for councils they told Head Teachers to come up with a plan that cost no extra! this is why kids are not in school it's money issue
- 01:03:39 There is no equity in this entire process.

- 01:03:39 what if it's never deemed 'safe'? people need to start getting real about the relative risks we face every day in life
- 01:03:41 what about GIRFEC? this is not getting it right for every child, especially not those with ASN
- 01:03:41 I would rather the plans were supported and co-ordinated rather than scrutined. It strikes me local authorities are out of their depths here and responses should be co-ordinated at SG level.
- 01:03:49 why do children that attend child minders not require to social distance even when multiple households being cared for
- 01:03:52 Not enough face to face time with staff can be accommodated by phone calls.
- 01:03:54 why not lengthen the school day? All other public sector workers have had to do this, including evenings and weekends
- 01:03:58 A whole local authority approach with no flexibility by individual schools isn't helpful either
- 01:04:02 My kids have had no teaching. Only worksheets emailed home. We could stomach this in the short term, but I'm not prepared to write off a whole school year. Schools need to be funded properly to deliver full time education at home and in school.
- 01:04:03 These variations will lead to massive inequalities in terms of preparations for exams. How do you expect all children to perform and achieve their potential?
- 01:04:06 why are teachers not providing teaching sessions online daily?
- 01:04:10 Could you give us some information about what will be happening with school nursery places? I haven't had any information about this.
- 01:04:13 If you need more teaching staff then why not fund PG CET training? Or, recognise qualifactions such as CELTA and Asector/ Verifier qualifactions to each certain sectors of the school population.
- 01:04:15 In West Lothian we have been using Glow and Teams for online learning. My son is in S4 and has been logged on everyday, following a timetable and is able to submit work everyday. It has worked well but is no substitute for in school learning.
- 01:04:24 If blended learning is based on our experience over the last 10 weeks then I know it will be woefully inadequate and will have long term consequences for my child's learning
- 01:04:26 Why are councils being allowed to discriminate against asn kids and give them less of education than mainstream?
- 01:04:32 It is not blended learning - it is part time education.
- 01:04:33 Edinburgh City Council have come in for a lot of criticism and rightly so. Why doesn't that surprise any of us who live in our capital city.

01:04:33 Is there any concerns over teachers carrying out video teaching sessions, as I believe that this is happening differently in different schools - we need the same opportunities for our children

01:04:34 What about equality in relation to disability my son is forgotten there is no equity to him. Nobody cares and he is ignored.

01:04:39 Worksheets are not enough

01:04:42 Are teachers going to be asked to work Saturdays, Oct holidays etc as quite frankly they have families, have worked most probably more over and above their normal hrs etc It would not be fair to ask or indeed expect this

01:04:42 find a childminder willing to take an autistic child with challenging behaviour. I can't afford not to work.

01:04:53 This has shocked me! Surely we need to park academics this year and ensure the health and wellbeing of our children, therefore, ASN should be a massive priority

01:04:56 its part time schooling. let's not joke.

01:04:57 we don't have online learning at all, not spoken to a teacher since lockdown in East Dunbartonshire

01:05:06 Senior Phase young people have not been considered...

01:05:11 government recommendations have not been taken forward by schools, therefore disadvantaged by some schools eg. video learning.

01:05:16 The excellence and equity approach has been systematically underfunded. We already had huge problems before COVID-19.

01:05:19 What are you going to do to ensure children are not disadvantaged by poor internet connection and the inability to actually use a technological device. Infants should not be expected to spend the majority of the day looking at a screen.

01:05:19 how come my grandkids can go to a childminder but not come to me?

01:05:29 Parents can't get to work unless kids are in school and nurseries ! its a never ending circle. economy is doomed

01:05:32 I've offered gtc's and local council to do jobs and they have told me I am not needed

01:05:33 Why aren't teachers allow to deliver virtual lessons... just like this??

01:05:33 This is not just about ASN it is about every child

01:05:36 Given that many children in nursery in Scotland would be in reception in England and therefore at school, it is important that they too do not miss out on their education. Please could you give us some information about this?



- 01:05:37 All well and good contact GTCS who's going to pay these teachers?
- 01:05:38 children need face to face learning, business is taking time to adapt, children will struggle to cope -,the 2m rule needs reviewed in the education sector
- 01:05:40 ACES....Home schooling part of blended learning is already an ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCE for most children I'd bet and will continue to be with blended learning. Too stressful for children and parents...please listen. Weigh up the real risks of coronavirus with many sections of society already abandoning social distancing etc...) and the threat to young peoples mental well being that is happening with home schooling and blended learning
- 01:05:43 Eleanor Morris: What has been done over the last 10-12 weeks to try to secure additional staff and space?
- 01:05:46 I really can't complain about the online offering in WL but appreciate that this is not the same everywhere - it's the consistency question then.
- 01:05:47 More blended learning will be a disaster for our children
- 01:05:53 Sorry - I am a registered teacher, on Supply and I haven't been approached? Can you confirm how this has been done? I suspect this isn't accurate?!
- 01:06:00 Why where did retired teachers etc not asked months ago
- 01:06:02 I am a teacher - my son has been kicked out of school with no support package. Therefore, I face having to give up my job. One teacher less!
- 01:06:16 Thank you for all of the work you are doing to try and safely return the children to school. I'm in Renfrewshire and am generally impressed with how well supported we have been at home during this time. I was a teacher but have been at home with my children for the last few years, I had been planning to return to work in August but unfortunately councils seem to not be accepting external applicants for any vacancies which seems crazy given the number of additional teaching staff that will be required to even get to pupils in 50% of the week (unless you are removing teachers McCrone time)! I would be happy to return, should I look forward to someone contacting me? I definitely haven't been approached thus far?
- 01:06:25 Are parents going to be penalised for refusing to put their children back into a communist regime? are children going to be continually reprimanded if they don't comply to "guidelines" as they are guidelines?
- 01:06:27 What about children who have nothing at home
- 01:06:28 What about the funding of the additional teachers that you are talking of bringing in to the workplace?
- 01:06:32 LOTS of portacabins are needed on the secondary school grounds. Blended learning is no good if it is just documents being sent to unmotivated students, no matter how bright they are. Invigilator young people and other volunteers can keep the other classes attentive whilst the student's own teacher is videoed into the second classrooms.
- 01:06:32 How would they fund extra support for schools?

- 01:06:33 How will you ensure equity across councils especially Edinburgh's 26% school attendance?
- 01:06:34 I know of many supply teachers who have not been approached. Don't believe this is happening consistently.
- 01:06:37 No live lessons at all in my kids' school
- 01:06:37 We have been told that the teaching unions have banned video conferencing
- 01:06:55 GTCS closed shop prevents thousands of highly-capable parents from getting involved in delivering learning in conjunction with teachers.
- 01:07:00 How do devices assist demotivated pupils?
- 01:07:21 How are you going to manage 'attendance' during home schooling days?
- 01:07:31 ASN children can't cope with the transitioning between school and home learning. For many of them home is their safe space and not a place for learning. How are going to support these children? They have the ability to learn but need the extra support to do so.
- 01:07:37 you have not provided devices
- 01:07:39 why have SG not taken the same approach with Education that they did for the NHS equally important
- 01:07:40 This sounds great for very able pupils.
- 01:07:41 my child has daily video meetings with his teachers via Teams.
- 01:07:50 none of this is required if you would actually read the evidence about children
- 01:07:51 provision of home learning grids once per term - no other learning provided by my local primary school in D&G
- 01:07:51 We have had excellent online lessons produced for our children but that's because we pay school fees so no credit to the Scottish Government for this
- 01:07:57 no ASN support whatsoever
- 01:07:58 You said that the aim is to provide 50% schooling then why is north Lanarkshire only providing 40%??
- 01:08:00 Delivering devices now? Too little too late. We're 3 months into this.
- 01:08:00 If children spread the virus to one another with minimal risk (and teachers wear PPE as other professionals in front line professions wear) surely the health risk is less than the risk of loss of education? The vulnerable adults who are really the ones at risk need to be protected as they are currently. Children can maintain a 2m distance from these adults under controlled conditions. It seems a really disproportionate step to pursue 'blended learning' going forward.

- 01:08:07      What about a scheme similar to the furlough for parents who can't go back to work because of homeschooling, and will inevitably be made redundant?
- 01:08:08      What support will be given to working parents while they are expected to home school?
- 01:08:10      online learning may be appropriate for those children who are older. My children are 5 and 7 and wouldn't be able to access online learning without constant support and supervision. we can't manage that when we are both also having to work. are there other age appropriate options?
- 01:08:15      Discussion with teachers and peers embeds learning for pupils. What steps will be taken to ensure there is face-to-face learning through video conferencing when pupils are at home? At present, in our school, learning is simply allocating tasks on-line with no discussion or interaction. If the UK Cabinet can use Zoom the Scottish Parliament can use Microsoft Teams Video and private schools are running lessons through video why can't state schools?
- 01:08:22      my children's schools have used Google classroom and some recorded videos/ chats with teachers which has worked ok, but it would have been good to have had some printed materials.
- 01:08:25      We have been given 1 no. sheet, once a week. My kids have this completed by Monday
- 01:08:25      It's not just kids who have additional support needs. There are a lot of parents who have additional support needs (eg dyslexia, ADHD, ASD and mental health problems) so they need extra support too if they are going to be responsible for home learning.
- 01:08:29      I'd really like to hear the plans for the online element of the blended model - as if it is just what the kids have been getting so far it isn't good enough. My S3 daughter has lost all motivation after being given an online timetable of 3.5 hours a day, but is only getting enough work to fill a max of 1.5 hours a day - and that's with the extension work
- 01:08:30      Children need social interaction - it isn't just about 'learning'. I don't want my children on screens for 6 hours a day for 3 days!!
- 01:08:31      My son is severely autistic and the transition back to school is going to be very difficult for him. 2 days per week at school will not be sufficient and confuse him even more.
- 01:08:33      This technology is of no use to many vulnerable children.
- 01:08:36      many pupils don't know how to effectively use devices
- 01:08:36      children have been getting devices already and still not submitting work
- 01:08:39      we have had 13 weeks already and no online learning provided why is this?
- 01:08:40      After 3 months we would have thought that all the resources, processes and material would have been in place - at work we were up and running as normal from home in less than a week - why can't the Govt get their act together like the Real world can

- 01:08:42 Did you see the BBC article signed by 100 specialists in psychology re the impact of this on young people and are you just ignoring this and relying purely on the scientific advice
- 01:08:42 Challenge of my current experience of online learning is that my child cannot get support other than an email with teacher. Online worksheets and tasks is not enough we need some face to face learning via virtual means
- 01:08:43 digital divide is still big in North West Glasgow, running a IT recycle project, a lot of families applying
- 01:08:47 Re- able pupils, mine \*were\* able, and are now demotivated and hating school work.
- 01:08:48 my child attend ASN school and work is emailed to him however I can't keep up with the ink or paper required to print it of sometimes 50 pages
- 01:08:49 Still to hear of a Chrome book for either of my children. Please tell us how we go about doing that?
- 01:08:51 Current online material links from youtube which due to parental controls on child's device cannot access the videos. This adds stress when parent trying to work from home at same time. Home learning should be more paper and pencil, workbooks etc to avoid such stress
- 01:08:53 We are creating initiatives with the Scottish events industry to deliver safe and fit-for-purpose temporary spaces for schools. Who in the Scottish Government is going to take us up on this immediately? John is speaking about temporary spaces. We can deliver. Tell us who will listen to offers like ours and act quickly to implement them? Less talk more action.
- 01:08:54 Will SQA exams take place in 2021? When will we know about changes to course content and assessment as teachers have to plan now for August and beyond.
- 01:08:55 Many pupils have devices but no motivation.
- 01:08:56 how are the devices secured?
- 01:08:56 our primary school P4 class provides a daily maths support video call to any child wanting to join, weekly reading groups and comprehension groups, 1:1 daily calls with pupils needing support and weekly class calls at a social level like circle time. Pupils get a full curriculum delivered every week with feedback
- 01:08:59 what about money for other practical subjects to help pupils complete work for SQA folios.
- 01:08:59 School posts resources on twitter, but have not done anything else. That's fine if you are a twitter user! And I don't have a printer to print out worksheets!
- 01:08:59 class dojo to message teachers used in school but not instant responses
- 01:09:00 Fife wont do online lessons for 'child protection' reasons
- 01:09:06 Perhaps employing IT people to train teachers in basic digital skills would be useful. big variations in word processing, video and other digital skills...

01:09:10 I work full time, I'm not a qualified or good teacher and one of my children is too young to work independently online, will families in these circumstances be prioritised for more face to face learning?

01:09:10 25k is only good if the school actually delivers via this method

01:09:13 Does this mean that 25,000 children have been without a useable device for the past 3 months?

01:09:14 we have had lots of work home, in various forms. None of it recognised my child's ASNs.

01:09:14 My 5 year old is in p1 and has no idea how to use a device like that. No everyone, parents included are computer savvy

01:09:27 When we will be told our child's timetable for August?

01:09:30 significant inconsistencies in Dumfries and Galloway in terms of online learning opportunities - variation between schools but also between classes.

01:09:31 What are you going to do to ensure the local authorities don't simply ignore your advice as this is what happens right now? My previous communication from your office advise you set policy and it is up to council to implement it are you still going to pass the buck?

01:09:36 on line learning not all classes are giving work to do

01:09:37 can the Scottish government not provide funding to the various school systems, so they can all have the same apps and technology? why do some schools offer meetings on ms teams, and others have to settle for google meet, which isn't as good a program? consistent standards for online learning would surely go some way towards helping make things more even between schools.

01:09:42 Would parents rather abandon blended learning and send their children back to school ALL together, full time in August...

01:09:53 My son is 5 and just starting school, he will not be able to use the technology needed without constant supervision. I work full time, so now I'm going to have to ensure I complete my hours in the weekend / evenings which will impact on family time

01:10:00 Elaine Towler: As a full time working parent I don't have the time to wade through these resources to find suitable material for my children

01:10:02 Gillian Scott: Spend the money on portacabins, and volunteer invigilators, not IT. We can and have supplied the equipment-IT DOES NOT get the child to participate in remote school class work.

01:10:07 Lynn Milton: lack of motivation is a very big concern especially when my children do not even need to register until 11am for primary and 12 noon for secondary. when schools go back this needs to be more like a normal school day even if they are learning online at home.  
highland region

01:10:10 Jo Myers: What efforts are being made to prioritise pupils sitting crucial exam years?

01:10:10 The assignments have not been marked

01:10:13 We have had excellent communication from my daughters school and still get regular email updates every Friday then their homework is posted on their website. We take pictures each week and email it to

01:10:14 Teachers should be accessing this quality learning you are referencing. Parents shouldn't have to evaluate the quality of whats being produced

01:10:14 parents don't understand the curriculum to start browsing for resources

01:10:14 Yes to full time in August!!

01:10:15

01:10:16 Phase4 states eg. public services running fully, mass gatherings resume, all shops open, all workplaces open - why is this not compatible with normal school?

01:10:18 There seems to be some best practices in some local authorities, with daily online learning following a timetable - why can't these best practices be shared with all local authorities - surely we should be sharing what works well.

01:10:23 My child has additional needs that are not being met right now, how do we ensure we MEET EVERY CHILDS NEEDS, on an individual basis

01:10:26 How do you measure success going forward? Exam results/pupils' well-being/attainment gap?

01:10:28 The Scottish Government should be ashamed of its treatment of children with severe autism.

01:10:28 These polls are really good - would love to see all parents across Scotland getting the chance to answer these same points. Parents are feeling frustrated and anxious as you have seen and need to feel they are heard and can influence wherever they can

01:10:30 You are only answering questions for mainstream children. Do ASN children not matter?

01:10:38 In the Scottish Govt "Scientific evidence on schools document, bullet point 16 states that "There is little or no evidence on the impact of physical distancing on transmission in schools."

01:10:41 Yes to full-time return in August!!!!

01:10:44 Blended learning doesn't provide a collaborative learning experience which is so important for children and their peers which is known to have benefits to closing the attainment gap. Lack of technology, strong working relationships with new teachers won't happen with a 2-day face-to-face school week.

01:10:44 my primary school daughter has a learning grid each week and interaction online with her teacher and 1 phone call. I am furloughed so she has my support all day! This will not be possible if I am working. My son in secondary has online work with feedback but this is minimal and

there has been no new work given - all revision. He is in 3rd year and this is really worrying as he really struggles with school anyway.

01:10:50 We shouldn't need to have a back up and search for learning for our kids ourselves.

01:10:50 33% of pupils are getting online lessons but Stirling Council won't deliver this due to safeguarding issues. How is this fair?

01:10:55 Clearly, A.S.N. pupils are of no consequence.

01:10:56 Yes to full time return in August

01:11:01 Teachers study for at least 4 years. No amount of online help can replace a true classroom based learning environment.

01:11:08 When will asn tribunals be active again so children are not left in limbo?

01:11:13 No education being delivered to my kids. Just worksheets.

01:11:19 as parents we should be balancing screen time - doing too much online rather than face to face will be damaging

01:11:19 Falkirk Council also not delivering online lessons due to concerns about safeguarding

01:11:20 At the moment with this plan can it really be said that GIRFEC is being applied because clearly it is not right for every child currently

01:11:20 West Dunbartonshire Council set up a virtual online school with its own headteacher! Combination of live lessons, pre-recorded lessons and upload work. Is this the best practice example of how 'learning at home' should be delivered

01:11:23 My child is due to start school and has ASN but nothing is happening

01:11:24 parents should get the choice to send kids in or now. I am happy to risk covid to be honest as I feel their risk to education and mental health is greater

01:11:25 children need taught developmentally i.e. not the level they are not based on

01:11:33 The children need more face to face with teachers and classmates whether that be online or in school

01:11:38 We do groups online with parents so there should be no real issues for councils. Just bad decisions by councillors

01:11:44 YP in S5 how are they going to manage long term and then possibly be expected to sit exams? my daughter is academically very able but she is becoming depressed due to online learning, not seeing friends, no physical contact with friends due to social distancing, lack of 1-1 teaching, lack of peer to peer support? are the SG going to do an audit/investigation into the impact of the lockdown on their emotional, mental, social wellbeing and detrimental effect? How much funding is going to be put into Mental health services considering CAMHs werent meeting waiting time targets before COVID?

- 01:11:45 Which local authorities are offering online lessons?
- 01:11:46 At the moment you seem to have one strategy yet four phases of Covid Lockdown. Should you not have a strategy for education for each phase of covid?
- 01:11:46 GIRFEC = Getting It Right For Every Council
- 01:11:46 Senior phase young people need to be back in school FULL TIME to ensure they get then right support in learning for their final years at school
- 01:11:47 The poll for sending kids back in August full time...it's so far away we've no idea what the state of play will be at that point. What Swinney needs to tell us is whether schools will re-open if  $R_0 > 1$ .
- 01:11:48 lots of teachers were told not to put pressure on families and they were to do what they could with children
- 01:11:50 BUT ITS NOW JUNE, my company has had to deal with it's clients immediately and we dealt with it immediately. Councils have not reacted.
- 01:11:52 can see some appeal for digital lessons for senior secondary but this is not workable/appropriate for primary age kids
- 01:11:58 One of our local charities have given tablets out to kids in our area and our school has also distributed resources to our school kids.
- 01:11:58 I think as time goes on the motivation and mental health and wellbeing of children (and families) is a real concern. School is about more than just education and the absence of this for many children is going to be so detrimental
- 01:12:02 Homework / Assignments are minimal, it's been less than the homework we normally get for our children after a whole week of taught learning.
- 01:12:05 it's been said that children mainly don't become ill with this virus , so why not send them back full time in august if R number low and no cases .
- 01:12:10 I want to deliver video lessons to my classes but I can not do this. My region has disabled that function on teams
- 01:12:14 No live lessons in our Edinburgh school, worksheets (often online) and very little teacher support
- 01:12:18 There can be no face to face learning or video calls at home during blended learning as teachers will be teaching in school.
- 01:12:18 South Lanarkshire have been providing online lessons in terms of materials however no video lessons yet.
- 01:12:23 What is your child's experience from school Mr Swinney??



- 01:12:26        It will be 20 weeks without any education for many by the time kids return in 11th August. Catastrophic.
- 01:12:28        Can you advise what should be happening with child planning meetings etc. . . . there has been nothing for my daughter even though one was due. I am very concerned about her transition to high school in august without an IEP. This will only increase her anxieties, we do not as parents feel confident how will our young people feel.
- 01:12:36        How were ASN children represented? Do they not matter
- 01:12:39        What about ASN nurseries where the children are missing out on speech therapy which could impact their ability to speak for the rest of their lives! That window to acquire language won't wait!
- 01:12:40        I think that the risk to our children is greater by not sending them back to school full time.
- 01:12:40        The Scottish Govt / Local authority blame game is really unhelpful.
- 01:12:41        Providing set activities rather than vague references to websites (e.g. Twinkl is a nightmare to navigate) requires parents to spend hours locating appropriate activities. set specific tasks/activities with option to complete or not
- 01:12:45        West Lothian operates online lessons and has done since day 1 of lockdown both in primary and secondary schools. It's working well for the most part.
- 01:12:46        But what will you do if the LA's won't deliver what you have promised?
- 01:12:47        Local authorities are clearly out of their depth
- 01:12:51        We shouldn't need to use Government websites as 'back-ups' and a remote broadcast that pupils can log onto if they 'feel like it' isn't good enough. Ensure that each school is delivering the same standard!
- 01:12:54        it's 2 months away and numbers are falling massively now . blended learning should be a plan B not a plan A
- 01:12:54        Can you comment on likelihood of pupils being expected to sit prelim and Higher exams and will these be representative of the reduced learning?
- 01:12:55        I think they should go back full-time as long as the COVID rate has not increased. I don't see the argument for not going back especially in the highlands where there have been few cases and none in the last couple of weeks??!
- 01:12:59        I absolutely cannot fault the support we have had from my sons teacher (P4). The contact, assignments, feedback, online meetings has been tremendous and has really supported myself and my husband to continue to work full time with him having a daily, consistent timetable. I can't see how this can be sustainable when the schools return?
- 01:12:59        can make better use of PSAs to support online learning

- 01:13:00 Scottish government should take over the running of all school during this time
- 01:13:02 Fife local authorities tick box parental consultation is appalling
- 01:13:02 Thats insane to get consistency and fairness someone needs to take control
- 01:13:04 Some parents have still to be informed what provision they are getting. When can they expect to be informed and can pressure/deadlines be set to get parents some information.
- 01:13:04 It is important that children who have to shield for health reasons are not excluded from what is going on when other kids return to school. How are you ensuring that they will be considered?
- 01:13:05 It needs some consistency around home learning. Some children are getting better learning than others. We are lucky that the teacher we have is great but we have had minimal online lessons and I work full time. parents need more support if they are working full time as well.
- 01:13:08 Local authorities are being let down by Scottish Govt
- 01:13:11 Swinney is putting it all on the LA's to deliver this. Are they actually equipped in terms of expertise and resource to deliver?
- 01:13:14 South Lanarkshire schools have been very mixed. Some have provided good online homework but others have definitely not
- 01:13:16 and I would not send my child back school full time with a full class until I know its safe to do so. I would not put my childs life or my family's life at risk.
- 01:13:17 What about asking the young people who are worried about their access to universities for 2021!
- 01:13:19 blaming local authorities is unhelpful. Take control of the situation Scot Govt
- 01:13:20 There is a lot of discussion about digital connectivity and devices. No talk about digital literacy of those supporting children. No chat about literacy either?
- 01:13:21 What do you mean by a digital lesson? I think there is an expectation that this will be as it is in the classroom which is not realistic. Do you include a PowerPoint with the teacher recording a voice over on it as a digital lesson?
- 01:13:21 It sounds like they were top heavy council staff rather than top heavy parent opinions
- 01:13:21 decisions are taken at local level. maybe the govt need to give clear directive that all local authorities MUST follow. That's the only way everyone will get the same message / information and support
- 01:13:23 I have 7 children at home, 2 have autism and 1 has adhd. 1 of these children has visual impairment and memory loss. what help will she get in school? Also my husband works full time so I am trying to do it on my own with a bad internet connection, so how do I help my children learn if there really isn't any support?

- 01:13:24 surely in these exceptional circumstances the SG needs to take control and ensure equity of education delivery
- 01:13:31 How can you ensure local authorities are not giving you lip service like your giving us right now?
- 01:13:32 Some LAs were already at breaking point
- 01:13:32 West Dunbartonshire sounds great - this good practice needs to be rolled out, not have 31 other authorities trying to reinvent the wheel
- 01:13:33 I haven't heard from a teacher apart from a general email with a general learning grid. My child is not being educated at all and with one day a week will still not be educated. He is let down in terms of socialisation. What about his mental health? This is not ok.
- 01:13:35 how is that passing the buck? he's not lying about LA's being in charge of schools!
- 01:13:38 You need to give the local authorities the money to deliver the education required. By telling them you will issue money on 'approval of submitted plans' is not supporting their decision making. They are responding with a 'can't do' attitude.
- 01:13:41 how about helping LAs by taking a brave and logical decision to reduce distancing in schools?
- 01:13:44 will all modules be expected when children return? things like PE, HE, Drama arent essential and could be missed for a few months to help kids engage in essentials like English maths and sciences?
- 01:13:44 why only scrutinizing plans now we are 13 weeks in?
- 01:13:46 My daughter's school has provided her with quite a steady stream of work across a range of subjects, but there is inconsistency in that some subjects have not provided any work since early lockdown. The biggest inconsistency is that most teachers are not providing any feedback, while a few are. Absence of face-to-face teaching and learning, if teachers don't engage with learners to give them a sense of progress, this is a problem. There should ideally be a national strategy for a minimum standard approach to learning and teaching, but there currently isn't in the current non-schooling phase.
- 01:14:01 why are we not using the summer to catch up and do summer school?
- 01:14:04 i have been very impressed by the support from my two childrens school, 1 at primary age and 1 at secondary
- 01:14:10 WILL YOU ENFORCE YOUR WISHES TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES?????
- 01:14:11 Children need to return to taught education full-time in August.
- 01:14:13 Children have a statutory right to a fulltime education so if a child turns up each day to apply thier right to obtaining that education will they be sent away???
- 01:14:17 The local authorities do not seem to be able to flex the teacher contracts to meet the extraordinary issues at present. As the doctors were incentivised with the setting up of the NHS,

throw a lot of money at the teachers and tell them to provide a vastly improved offer (working through holidays)

01:14:20 Nothing will be planned in school holidays, teachers will be off on holiday for 6 weeks!

01:14:27 My local authority claim they have no control and continually tell us they take guidance from SG ??

01:14:29 The issue is the disparity between the schools doing their own thing

01:14:37 This is a national crisis which requires a national response.

01:14:38 Can we please remember that parents only have a single voice in these national groups that are making these decisions e.g. via Connect or NPFS but schools, headteachers, local govt and national govt and teaching unions have multiple voices in these processes. This isn't fair.

01:14:38 yes to full time August

01:14:43 it's ok to say that the Summer holidays are there to iron out the issues, but parents need notice to put things into place with work and childcare. we cannot wait until the week before to find out what we need to do. We need to know NOW

01:14:47 local authorities need more resources ...this should be a national approach with specific guidance. someone needs to take charge. don't put that responsibility on LA's.

01:14:49 lets use the time between now and the holidays to develop plans and support teachers to develop plans - steep learning curves across the country/working lives just now.....

01:14:50 please, please tell us how you will protect full time working parents

01:14:51 Spend more time centrally providing high quality resources rather than everyone reinventing the wheel

01:14:55 I know a number of teachers who admit they have done next to nothing for the last 3 months. Yet teachers from other areas say they have worked non stop - how is this equitable?

01:14:56 Our school or LA haven't been in touch at all with us re their decision-making process

01:14:57 how many are planning to have pupils in school 50% (2.5 days)

01:14:57 was it a deliberate action to delay the information in relation to part time education when returning in Aug?

01:15:02 Why are parents not involved in LA plans/consultations?

01:15:09 will hubs still be open?

01:15:09 Eleanor Morris: Will plans continue to evolve over the holidays though? By the time we are back in August, we are 5 months into planning!

- 01:15:10 Same old pass the buck to the LA's when we all know how inefficient and poorly managed they are
- 01:15:10 We need the Scottish government to take control and create an online learning platform one for each primary year group and one for each secondary subject so those at home can learn from those
- 01:15:12 just stop with the passing the buck to schools and councils. the fundamental point we're making here is consistency!!!
- 01:15:13 please, please tell us how you will protect full time working parents so that are not discriminated against, lose jobs and prevent impact on mental health
- 01:15:14 So far just a holding letter for Highland. No real communication on what will happen come August.
- 01:15:22 The biggest problem is lack of consistency across authorities. This has been and will always be the case until Education Scotland is truly that.
- 01:15:25 BEST PRACTICE is a must - look at West Lothian for how this works well.
- 01:15:25 what platform are West Lothian using to deliver the online learning?
- 01:15:28 if not the government then who will decide on full time return in August so we can lobby them!
- 01:15:29 Can he say something about Edinburgh? As our schools are already overcrowded the kids are being offered 4 days of school in 3 weeks. Not acceptable. Not enough.
- 01:15:30 please highlight the needs of key working parents who will not be able to support blended learning
- 01:15:33 feels the blended learning is the main plan when I don't think it should be considering the numbers now .
- 01:15:33 how many kids have carried covid so we can assess the risk properly?
- 01:15:34 With the reduced expected time in class - please, please, please focus on core subjects of English and maths for pupil-teacher face to face teaching. Its not that other subjects are not important, but I think parents would agree that we need to focus on the key attainment areas??
- 01:15:34 Can you confirm... Did a SINGLE parent representative at any of these "table talks" ever agree that this option was a good idea or was it just a tick box exercise ?!
- 01:15:35 I am sorry John Swinney but you are living in cloud cuckoo land! If this is the guidance you are giving local authorities and schools I have no faith in you or any of your false promises as it is so inconsistent and unstructured.
- 01:15:36 SG make guidelines however they never take responsibility over the councils.
- 01:15:38 Our Local Authority state its only Guidance we don't have to follow it.

- 01:15:45 Full time required for those kids heading in to S4 who have little time to catch up
- 01:15:46 we are using GLOW and Teams
- 01:16:03 will absolutely widen the poverty related attainment gap!
- 01:16:05 You are failing to close the gap and making it worse.
- 01:16:08 Should private schools pay tax?
- 01:16:13 Perhaps the system isn't working
- 01:16:22 You are failing to close the gap. This was the case before and so much more the case now.
- 01:16:24 Lessons from other countries for ALL groups - nursery, primary, secondary, asn?
- 01:16:31 standards aren't going to be raised with a 2-dy/wk education.
- 01:16:32 Closing the attainment gap cannot be done with part time schooling.
- 01:16:36 100% making the gap worse - maximise equality by opening schools
- 01:16:38 this is failing to close the gap! The gap will grow bigger
- 01:16:38 closing these gaps have always been the policy, why is it that it never happens
- 01:16:40 Then you need to massively fund state schools during this period or it is a lost cause.
- 01:16:40 will close the attainment gap - by bringing the top down. Frustrating
- 01:16:41 the only way to close the attainment gap is to merge private and public schools and make school a level playing field
- 01:16:41 when will we find out more on the intention and plans for after August?
- 01:16:42 part-time schooling will only widen the attainment gap.
- 01:16:44 you are failing to close this gap by forcing part time schooling.
- 01:16:49 Complete abdication to suggest that schooling is incompatible with Phase 4 and requires relaxation of 2m rule. This sounds like reasoning made up on the hoof.
- 01:16:50 Pupils are being disadvantaged due to the inaction of the Scottish Governement.
- 01:16:52 This should have been part of the conversation from the very beginning in the way the emergency response was within the health service. Not left for the last 2 weeks of term
- 01:16:53 PEF funding needs to be given to headteachers and not used centrally so DFM must ensure all L A do this

- 01:16:56 The difference I see from friends in more affluent areas to deprived areas is quite astounding. we need equity in education provision to maximise the opportunities for our children, despite the area they live
- 01:17:00 the gap will only widen!
- 01:17:02 Will the SG be doing an equality impact assessment or indeed a Child Rights and Wellbeing assessment ?
- 01:17:08 Do you see a role for face coverings to enable earlier return to school?
- 01:17:10 As a not badly off parent believe me It's time I'm short of not money.
- 01:17:14 Enquire give you advice and tell you what your rights are however no one tells you how you can get anywhere when the la don't bother what your rights are and make it up as they go along?
- 01:17:19 China has just shut down schools again following a rise in cases in Shanghai. We need to get this right so that we don't have to do this.
- 01:17:22 The attainment gap will of increase when private schools are opening full-time. How is it that they are able to keep the 2m rule?
- 01:17:22 Where are the figures for how many children are engaging on online learning, I believe its lower than 50%?
- 01:17:24 why social distancing in school when stage 4 elimiNates this with mass gatherings - kids can go to the hydro or soft play but not be educated fully ?
- 01:17:25 It is not blended learning, it is part time education.
- 01:17:33 You have to admit the attainment gap will widen with the current blended learning plan.
- 01:17:41 the Children's commissioner for scotland has come out and said the 50% isn't good enough
- 01:17:49 As well as fears for my own children, I feel shame for the dogs dinner SG is making of this. Countries all over Europe either never closed schools or only closed briefly. They have 1-1.5 m rules and coronavirus is under control. Time to learn from other countries?
- 01:17:56 Currently the situation has reduced all the students outputs by providing no real time learning online, on assumption students do not have the media. what if they do?
- 01:18:00 will specific safety advice be published for practical senior phase subjects?
- 01:18:00 What is the source of evidence for 2m social distancing?
- 01:18:03 Your report recognised that school closures disproportionately impact on children with ASN, single parents, women in general. Part-time learning (for this is what it is) further perpetuates this so what mitigation is being put in place to address these inequalities?

- 01:18:03 How Scotland can be trying to incorporate the UN convention of the rights of the child and at the same time do this is madness
- 01:18:04 how on earth can anyone know what the situation will look like in August
- 01:18:08 Can you show us the clinical advisers report?
- 01:18:09 WHERE IS THE EVIDENCE FOR 2M IN CHILDREN?
- 01:18:11 They only way to reduce the gap and address all concerns including covid is more staff allocated to schools in the long term to enable smaller class sizes. Our school could take so many more children if the authorities budget and antiquated system for FTE allocation was addressed.
- 01:18:12 why with children who are not superspreaders??
- 01:18:15 Why can adults start going back to work, shop, pubs opening etc and yet children being denied their right to a fulltime education
- 01:18:21 but we can go to phase 4 in August whilst maintaining 2 metres... rubbish
- 01:18:24 2m until when - what is the cut off
- 01:18:30 I am a parent of 2 Primary children and 1 high school pupil as well as a teacher. Working from home and supporting my children has been a huge challenge and very stressful. But there are many short memories in this chat. Nearly 50000 UK deaths. The virus has not gone away. Children may not get the disease as a serious condition but they are key spreaders of colds and flu which I believe are the same family of viruses as CV19. Open schools full time and watch the second spike hit and a second full lockdown.
- 01:18:34 If the 2m social distancing guidance changes before the return of school, are we in a position to react quickly?
- 01:18:39 the latest update from the UK's leading Paediatric Infectious Disease expert, children are not super spreaders: <https://threadreaderapp.com/user/apsmunro>
- 01:18:40 2m rule has not been observed in childcare hubs
- 01:18:43 what are the key drivers in children that require the 2m rule to continue
- 01:18:43 What do they need the infection rate to be to allow normality to resume???
- 01:18:45 The vast majority of young people in my area are out every evening with no social distancing.
- 01:18:45 I'm a public health specialist and support the 2m distancing. Why is 2m essential in schools but not in out of school child care settings (where my children will be on 3 other days of the week)?



01:18:46 why should the 2m social distancing that we're having to follow everywhere else in the country be different in schools? Unless the science says otherwise you're really willing to let your kids take that risk? REALLY?

01:18:51 I heard today that Beijing have closed schools again today due to an increase in numbers.

01:18:54 Please tell us who your advisers are as they are clearly different to those advising the UK government.

01:18:54 can you please show us the evidence that show transmission rates from children require the 2m distance

01:18:56 yes to full time school in August, it is fundamental right of every child, let parent take a risk

01:18:57 Its not just kids in schools.....teachers/support staff/cleaners/dinner ladies all need to be protected as well

01:19:00 It's astounding that we're at this point and teachers haven't got up to speed (like the rest of us have had to do) with the technology to deliver online teaching

01:19:08 This is about children \*and\* the disproportionate impact on women.

01:19:12 Staff need protection. 2m to remain

01:19:14 classes are set up for 2m.... staff are on holiday...

01:19:31 the infectious pool is reducing every week. It is currently 2,000 in 5.5M. What level is needed to decrease social distancing?

01:19:32 Reason given for no online teaching (i.e live video teaching) is that Edinburgh local authority won't allow it due to 'safeguarding' concerns. Can this be looked at please. This is an inconsistent policy.

01:19:32 It is already suppressed in the highlands, there have been very few cases of COVID 19. Why do we have to keep these rules because of higher rates in cities?

01:19:34 Increased risk of a miniscule risk from 2 m - 1m

01:19:37 Schools in 22 other European countries have returned already, children in our country are going to be falling miles behind. Who are our Scientific advisors in Scotland or are we just following the UK Government on this??

01:19:38 If the 2m rule has been your criterion, then planning for increase space and staff should have taken place weeks ago and been implemented by now. I was re-recruited as a healthcare worker - the process only took a matter of a couple of weeks.

01:19:41 How many children have been hospitalised with COVID-19 out of a population of 5

01:19:42 so reduce transmission by keeping pubs closed, and use the additional wriggle room in schools. priorities?

01:19:44 surely the strategy for education needs to adapt dependent on what phase we are on

01:19:44 Then you need to provide proper online face to face teaching, not just sacrifice the education of our children.

01:19:45 what about BLM marches in London. No surge resulting from these

01:19:47 It is not just children in schools, teachers, support assistants, catering staff, cleaners transport staff. They need to be kept safe too so that there are people in the schools for the children to attend.

01:19:53 Teachers are up to speed for the most part with tech but are not allowed to deliver LIVE lessons as per local authority rules

01:19:54 staff can be provided with PPE just like the NHS

01:19:55 we don't know the risks of the 2 meter rule changing, yet we have endless proof for the mental health risk and risks of poverty that this will cause

01:19:56 What about children with ASN how can you support them and keep 2mtr rule.

01:19:57 Professor Sridhar from Edinburgh University has said that if by 11 August cases are under 20 per day and the test and protect policy is in place, schools should be able to reopen normally. Can DFM confirm that the SG will take this position?

01:20:01 what conversations are taking place with employers around flexible working support to help with blended learning

01:20:03 how will it be managed when teachers are contact traced and told to isolate if they have ben in contact with an infected person? will their class and families then have to isolate?

01:20:10 How reactive will the local authority providers be to changes in recommended safety restrictions.

01:20:10 some school staff here have been on holiday since 20th March!!

01:20:14 you are reading the wrong scientific papers - there must be more to this as there is No evidence for 2m in children

01:20:16 Isn't the 2 meter rule for outdoors?!? If kids stay indoors in the same room, it does not make a difference if it is 1 meter or 2!

01:20:16 Why can Scot Gov not, in this time of national crisis, just tell LA's what needs to be done and this way all authorities will provide pupils with the same in school time? Have a large school plan, a small school plan and so on.

01:20:17 You can say all you like about the distancing, in primary schools where P1 and P2 pupils are the 2m or even 1m distancing is just not going to happen. the children are too young to fully understand and they will not maintain distance

01:20:20 If we are so worried a about cross infection why don't we have children wear PPE like we do within other environments???. I'm happy to provide my child with PPE to maximise his learning

01:20:24 Staff can remain 2m away from the children to remain safe, but the children can be closer to each other?

01:20:27 What evidence do you need to relax the 2m rule? Evidence please

01:20:28 Yes but you can also plan for it changing and communicate that timeline to parents now!

01:20:32 have you carried out an assessment of potential psychological harm caused by long term social distancing for children

01:20:34 NO SCHOOL STAFF HAVE BEEN ON HOLIDAY since march 20<sup>th</sup>

01:20:35 the SG we're doing amazingly well till I received the email this morning about senior phase being in school 2.5 hours per day 5 days per week. what kind of education is this it's laughable we started out with a plan of kids being back 2/3 full days per week & home learning for the other days but no this was scrapped as it doesn't suit the hierarchy

01:20:36 I know that teachers in West Lothian were starting to use GLOW and Teams in school just before lockdown so that everyone could familiarise themselves with the technology. It's had some blips but they did get up to speed every quickly.

01:20:37 Are we to wait for a vaccination that might not even be applicable to the strain? Where is the usual gold standard being applied for the development of a vaccine? What if you refuse your child being vaccinated will they not be able to access an education? Would it not be better to plan for schools to go back as normal and have a contingency if the numbers don't lower?

01:20:37 children are out with friends now not social distancing. it's not going to happen when they go to school anyway, so let's get them back full time.

01:20:44 Will infection control measures be in place in schools? Pre-covid the schools in my local authority were only cleaned 'every other day', this needs to substantially increase

01:20:47 Provide other control measures to reduce the risk. e.g. Screens between desks and cleaning regimes

01:20:47 Despite the good words of advice to wear face coverings by Nicola Sturgeon, almost no one is doing it. We need a BIG change in the demand requirement from government here. for example, always in school corridors/toilets

01:20:47 2m Think about it. Stand 2M away and blow as hard as you can from a burning candle, there will be no effect. Stand 1m away you can make the flame flicker. Get closer and you can blow it out. That's just the way COVID is spread.

- 01:20:51        how on earth can he know that it will still be needed in 8 weeks time?!
- 01:20:52        So...just to confirm. We are waiting for a Vaccine then?! Nonsense
- 01:20:57        There needs to be acknowledgement by Scottish Government that there are huge disparities within the education system, deprived areas and BAME are not included schools are not taking your advice local authorities are not listening to what you are saying at this moment in time it needs to be passed as law by the government at this rate it will continue as 'plans being developed enquiries reviews, all of these things are useless if they are not delivered on the ground. Children will lose out another generation of young people in poverty will be the losers There is a big disconnect between the grand social engineering agenda of government and the far simpler, aspirations and needs of local people ,many of whom are not fluent in the ways of jargon.
- 01:21:00        Will be council be held accountable when they ignore your advice?
- 01:21:06        so if we're waiting on a vaccine are we social distancing for the rest of our lives?
- 01:21:07        THIS IS CRAZY! Studies from all over the world show now that schools and nurseries do not contribute on a relevant level to the spread of the virus! Get back to normal ASAP!
- 01:21:07        We have screens in supermarkets, put these in schools
- 01:21:08        naïve to assume kids are isolating during all these extra non-school hours
- 01:21:10        so if 2m doesn't change what's plan B ...just part learning...? use other facilities?
- 01:21:12        School staff have not been on holiday. That's unfair to say. And I do not work in school.
- 01:21:14        How are the Scottish Government going to work over the summer holidays in the creation of live lessons to alleviate the stress on teachers?
- 01:21:20        children have been ill in hubs and they not been shut
- 01:21:22        I feel that the 2m rule should stay in place. Apart from anything else children will breach that distance so to make it closer will only make it worse. Why would anyone want to risk their family or others by reducing the distance.
- 01:21:23        how many cases of Covid19 have there been in schools across Scotland
- 01:21:23        surely there is a 1m plan in place too, so that when the advice changes the schools re good to go
- 01:21:44        teachers aren't hearing from their schools
- 01:21:49        how many children /staff got covid19 while the hubs were opened. please give us figures
- 01:21:50        REFUSING TO HAVE PARENT COUNCIL MEETINGS
- 01:21:50        the problem is schools are finding the rules are changing daily

- 01:21:51 schools are waiting for information to be confirmed
- 01:21:58 Its not just kids in schools.....teachers/support staff/cleaners/dinner ladies all need to be protected as well
- 01:22:14 I am a mum and and ASN teacher (Part time) and I have never worked so hard and felt so stressed. The goalposts change constantly. the region does not allow us to use good tools and I feel despite my best efforts I have been letting down children. My own child is autistic - he learns at home were he doesn't in school. ASN feels to me like an afterthought - ASN children will be most heavily impacted by this yet as part of the system I feel we are stymied at every turn.
- 01:22:20 PPE for adults in school
- 01:22:21 school staff have not been on holiday!!!
- 01:22:24 PPE for teachers and other staff?
- 01:22:25 It's worth referencing these recent tweets from Devi Sridhar who I understand is one of the advisors John is referring to If COVID-19 numbers can be brought low enough in Scotland by 11 August (under 20 confirmed cases) & with appropriate 'test and protect' policies, my personal view is that schools should re-open as normally as possible (kids back full-time & able to play/interact together). thread available here <https://twitter.com/devisridhar/status/1272939091466883076?s=21>
- 01:22:26 guidance isn't being progressed by councils and schools though i.e. using of online technology
- 01:22:28 and the parents and grandparents both who are often shielded people need to be protected
- 01:22:32 Many teachers want to just open the schools as normal
- 01:22:33 Why are teachers in Edinburgh providing one small task per day for the kids with no live learning? What are they doing the rest of the time when they're working from home. My working from home doesn't involve just logging on for less than an hour a day!
- 01:22:33 Education now IS a public health question. Its a global pandemic!
- 01:22:35 my son's high school has held online Parent Council meetings.
- 01:22:36 school staff are clearly more important than those of us who work frontline nhs
- 01:22:41 Will face masks and PPE be worn by staff within schools?
- 01:22:46 can we please get LAs to use Zoom as its the most effective and widespread video tool but teachers banned from using it
- 01:22:46 why not plan for the best outcome with all back in august and reserve the right to change rather than the other way round

- 01:22:49 If parents or children are in the shielding category will they be supported to continue full time home learning (asn child)
- 01:22:49 PPE for staff in schools essential. not acceptable NOT to provide this. 50000 dead.
- 01:22:52 what about school dinners?
- 01:22:56 This is a national disaster and a national disgrace.
- 01:23:03 Should schools be in discussion with PCA before making decisions?
- 01:23:05 Our school have declined our p7's a return for a leavers event. . . just to walk out the doors with the piper and applause from staff. This is closure for them and memories. They are the forgotten p7's. It's cruel.
- 01:23:08 PPE would help this situation
- 01:23:16 some of these comments are ridiculous. anyone saying teachers have been on holiday since March need to have a good look at themselves. yes, some schools and teachers have been really poor, but the majority are totally focussed on the kids education and wellbeing
- 01:23:17 There are thousands of PVG checked professionals with experience of working with children (e.g. in outdoor and sporting settings) - many of whom already deliver after-school activities. They know the kids and are just as keen to get safely-designed activities back up and running. Has any consideration been given to drafting them in to help extend the options available - in school or in childcare hubs.
- 01:23:40 Our children are suffering. There is zero commitment to make home schooling consistent e.g use the technology to it's full potential. I cannot understand why when we can be on an aeroplane with no distance, why children cannot go back to school. contact sport e.g football is restarting yet still out kids cannot be at school full time.
- 01:23:40 parents of ASN children may struggle to homeschool given other siblings, work, surely they cannot be held accountable if home school cannot be done
- 01:23:41 Parents are not being included in discussions about the way forward.
- 01:23:41 all school staff should have ppe also teachers will be working over the summer covering hubs etc - all while juggling their own families and lives!
- 01:23:44 If this is about child to teacher/staff why not use PPE
- 01:23:46 It took 6 weeks for our school in EDC following school closure to even send an email to parents. Communication has been non existant. So you may have lots of guidance available, but the schools are not engaging with parents.
- 01:23:51 We need support to help parents support their children. For example no one ever taught us how to use google classroom!
- 01:24:02 There's adults who need protecting within the school-the staff and 1 child death from this is too much.

01:24:06 My ten year old niece's only piece of 'education' one day was to make a sock into a ball and see how many times she could throw it into a waste paper bin. Really?!? This is a child who was already struggling with school. This is not an education.

01:24:12 Are you going to furlough any parent who isn't able to go back to work due to childcare issues?

01:24:18 Will Mr Swinney take responsibility for Scottish state school pupils falling behind their UK and European counterparts and being disadvantaged when applying for university/college / jobs?

01:24:23 There will always be risk but we need to balance the kids. The rate of COVID is now very low especially in rural areas and young people are usually unaffected. This response is completely OTT. The risks of death and poor health are much greater as a result of the economic crisis we are facing which is being made worse by this pathetic response of the Scottish government in delaying schools opening.

01:24:29 Teenagers are not socially distancing now they are able to meet their pals so seems ridiculous to assume they will at school!

01:24:53 some kids don't get their uniform washed for weeks on end!

01:24:58 Based on the success of Marcus Rashford's campaign to maintain meals for the most Vulnerable what is the Scottish Government going to do to ensure that that these children are protected in the summer holidays and beyond.

01:25:01 Could we add a 3rd type of learning to help support children's wellbeing and give them opportunities to play and socialise: Learning in school, learning at home and some learning opportunities with community sports or activity providers? The 3rd element would bring in other spaces and staff to the mix eg football/tennis/cricket/dance venues and staff. This could increase the length of time children can spend learning and having fun together, support their health, broaden their skills and allow parents more child-free time to work.

01:25:02 John Swinney needs to recognise that good work that Councils have been doing with parents and carers despite their budgets being cut year on year.

01:25:05 Uniform Yes - the kids have had enough of bumming around in shorts/pjs.....

01:25:06 Feels like there is no plan here! Just words no confidence in this being resolved anytime soon!

01:25:08 thousands of people have died due to this virus. would rather my children were safe and nobody know for certain who it will make seriously ill.

01:25:08 I think its right to recommend and aim for a 2M distance for a range of reasons, however it is clear we all recognise in practice that children, particularly younger or ASN, will find that difficult and it can have a negative effect on their wellbeing if they are denied comfort from teaching staff or chastised for sometimes forgetting that they cant hug their friends. I hope schools will be able to find a balance of how this can be applied, I don't envy their task

- 01:25:12 SG want to be open and transparent so can they publish the scientific evidence of the need to social distance or do many of us have to submit FOIs?
- 01:25:14 No uniform will take away identity of school a clean uniform can be worn every day government should provide this for disadvantaged kids
- 01:25:16 fresh uniform each day yes - wash at higher than normal temperature - not necessary!
- 01:25:20 but kids under 11 don't have to wear masks even in shops or on a packed bus - so forget distancing or masks in primary schools?
- 01:25:26 is the government guidance that all school children should not be meeting during the school holiday
- 01:25:36 Our school stated today that face coverings will not be mandatory in school, people can choose to wear it if they wish
- 01:25:36 We don't wear PPE/masks in the school hubs at the moment
- 01:25:40 Uniforms, but no ties (dangle)/blazers would be a good idea
- 01:25:41 I work with BME / Disadvantaged children I agree this situation puts them into further jeopardy.
- 01:25:41 Uniform is not a question in this situation - it is about our child's learning or lack there of!!
- 01:25:43 what will happen with school transport - will there be limits on this?
- 01:25:44 At East Lothian as parents we have been receiving really good support from our school.
- 01:25:51 Think uniforms are the least of a child/YP issues in getting them to re engage with education
- 01:25:53 I'd prefer to get my kids back to school full time first and worry about whether or not they're in uniform later
- 01:25:57 The most important thing is children attending, some battles are not worth it. as long as it is appropriate.
- 01:25:59 We have been told to drop our kids off no earlier than 9am. This is going to be a nightmare for employers
- 01:26:04 My son's school has provide all pupils with a hooded sweatshirt with the school logo. All that they ask is that they have black trousers and shoes.
- 01:26:06 Why not empower Heads to determine the best approach for their school?



- 01:26:12 Right now, you're making sue uniform is consistent but NOT education. Yeah, good one!
- 01:26:18 Where are young peoples voices in all these discussions\?
- 01:26:20 lets worry about school uniform (and not actually answer the question) and not worry about the fact we have went to part time schooling
- 01:26:31 when transportation is provided for ASN children which is provided by the local authorities what guidance is in place for this limited no's in vehicle more vehicles to be provided?
- 01:26:36 The planning for this is ludicrous . it's 2 months away . completely over the top and our children WILL suffer .
- 01:26:40 Open the school's full-time in August & allow parents to 'opt out' if they deem they have the facilities / capabilities to 'home school'?
- 01:26:41 I am completely against demonstrations at present due to the need for distancing, but if the offer is not vastly improved from schools, unfortunately the parents will take to the streets in demonstrations to demand normal school hours.
- 01:26:54 Will children/YP be sanctioned/reprimanded for not following 'GUIDELINES' or indeed not having the capacity to follow?
- 01:26:59 But non essential shops wont open till mid july so there would be an influx of parents trying to get school uniforms for the new term
- 01:27:02 LITTLE RISK TO CHILDREN SO WHY INSIST ON 2M ????????!!!!!!!
- 01:27:05 I think uniforms are important. kids are cruel and if someone doesn't have the best of outfits they will get bullied.
- 01:27:06 The important point is to get children back to school - who really cares what they are wearing at this time??? I get about identity etc but bring in the school uniform rule when they re back full time.
- 01:27:08 Wouldn't it have been possible to socially distance in an exam hall??
- 01:27:11 will school staff with underlying health conditions be expected to return to school, if not, can schools be adequately staffed to meet the minimum blended learning time?
- 01:27:12 A.S.N. pupils often require a 1-1.
- 01:27:15 my son thinks the 2.5 hrs per day at school is pointless
- 01:27:16 my daughter is registered blind how will social distancing be managed?
- 01:27:16 good point we need to support those who required shielding

01:27:16 has the question been asked as to why classes won't be going back 5 days a week especially when the scientific evidence shows children are more likely to be struck by lightning than suffering from Covid?

01:27:56 English kids will have an opportunity to sit their exams in the Autumn. Why are our children not being given this chance?

01:28:02 The children's parliament have gathered views from children however every child should have been given the opportunity, and then used to make decisions.

01:28:08 little risk does not mean NO RISK!!!

01:28:21 THERE IS NO TIME TO COMMUNICATE WITH SCHOOLS, OUR TEACHERS ARE DUE TO STOP FOR HOLIDAYS NEXT WEEK!

01:28:22 Is the SQA prepared for an onslaught of appeals??

01:28:24 Uniform is important if there is going to be more outdoor learning - needs to be practical!

01:28:25 22 men can run around a football pitch, share changing rooms, with back room staff etc etc but you wont let 30 kids back together. It's just about MONEY!

01:28:37 staff and teachers need to be protected too just like anyone else having to go to work elsewhere

01:28:45 Our ASG are planning less than 10% contact time in August, are central government supporting our local authority with this plan?

01:28:46 JOHN SWINNEY - DOES A CHILD GO TO SCHOOL IF A PARENT IS SHIELDING???? IF YES, WHAT DO YOU RECOMMEND FOR ANY SPECIAL PROCEDURES? PLEASE PROVIDE AN ANSWER

01:28:50 2021 exams and preparing our kids for that S4-S5 kids will be disadvantaged

01:28:54 what is the position on shared placements are responsible bodies permitting this or is it one education provider only?

01:29:01 SG need to ensure a consistency of delivery across all councils first and foremost. We have had nothing substantial from our school in East Dunbartonshire. Some teachers engage, others don't and we've had 13 weeks to sort his and another 8 ahead to sort it out.

01:29:03 what about shielding teachers? what is the guidance there?

01:29:07 I feel for teachers/headteachers working in state schools - they are being hung out to dry by the decision makers

01:29:13 What about exams next year/. How will children cover the syllabus with "blended" (part time ) learning?

01:29:20 what was his answer to kids wearing masks in school?

- 01:29:22 Will the Scottish Government pay my wages and my husband's when we can't work because you won't work to get the children back to school FULL TIME
- 01:29:24 Thanks to John Swinney for giving some clarity for shielding families.
- 01:29:34 school staff are at risk too. how do they protect themselves?
- 01:29:40 Can the Scottish Government provide support through a bank of national online educational resources across the entire curriculum as a back stop where local authorities and individual schools are struggling to deliver in particular areas? My concern is the ability of schools to maintain the broadest curriculum possible. If they don't do that or can't do that, pupils will be subject to detriment and disadvantage. By maintaining the broadest possible curriculum with nationally supported resources, the transition back to the full timetable will be less disruptive with not as much 'catching up' required.
- 01:29:42 Biggest issue is consistency and while schools do need to make decisions - the level of support and education should not be based on your post code.
- 01:29:42 What about 2021 exams. Children will be severely disadvantaged!
- 01:29:42 so its safe for child of shielder to attend - because the science says child unlikely to transmit virus back of the shielder. YET same science cant be used to allow full-time schooling?
- 01:29:46 But the schools are not communicating with us.....
- 01:29:51 My 15 year old daughter sitting watching this and finding it very frustrating. Lets hear more from the experiences of young people!! And please answer questions with real actions.
- 01:29:58 LAs are the problem on comms, not schools.
- 01:29:58 How low does the COVID rate have to be before the Scottish government will deem the risk low enough for children to go back full-time? What about where the local rate differs. Should local areas be able to make different decisions about distancing based on local COVID rates?
- 01:29:59 the challenge of communication between the school and the families is that there won't be consistency, as we have already seen and heard
- 01:30:00 SO, HAVE SCHOOLS TO MAKE UP THEIR OWN MINDS ABOUT WHETHER SAFE FOR A CHILD TO ATTEND SCHOOL IF A PARENT IS SHIELDING????? ARE YOU SERIOUS?????
- 01:30:14 how can staff provide full time home schooling to some whilst full-time face to face teaching?
- 01:30:15 what about nursery children moving into school?
- 01:30:16 SQA!!!! They need to make changes to course requirements now so that teachers can plan!!!
- 01:30:17 We are all in this together but there is ZERO leadership.

- 01:30:22 My local council , East Lothian is open and transparent so please don't label all Councils the same.
- 01:30:24 Senior phase? Please ask about plans for examinations. 50% teaching time won't help when there is an SQA exam to sit and the required learning has not been achieved.
- 01:30:26 Can the Scottish Govt not just be honest about the decision taken - to sacrifice at least half a year of education for half a million children?
- 01:30:28 we are all in a storm but we are not all in the same boat
- 01:30:29 My 15 year old wants to go back to school, she wants to learn, she wants to pass exams but she has no say.
- 01:30:29 due to part time education in August parent are going to have to share the non face days with other families if this is the case the it surely makes the idea of this pointless
- 01:30:34 not everyone knows how to access Government websites how does the person who is barely literate themselves from all backgrounds know what is being consulted on or are even are part of any consultation they are not included its a disgrace youth clubs that are the only support for many young people from disadvantaged backgrounds are seeing first hand the negative impact on these families and children what is the Scottish government doing about that? Youth workers are working to combat the effects of inequality and poverty on the lives of these young people they are trying to break the cycle of insecurity, mistrust of authority, low self esteem on a daily basis Covid has increased this on an unimaginable level
- 01:30:48 How will the additional school transport be paid for? Will extra funded by provided?
- 01:30:50 Shielding. That is a discussion the family has with the doctor and with the school. He said it was an individual decision.
- 01:30:54 Why do I still not know when my children will be in school? All I know is that the situation will be different but I have had no specifics for MDC
- 01:30:56 what measures are going to be put in place to protect teachers and maintain teacher numbers- if there is a lack of teachers then what's the point of risking my child going into the school building
- 01:31:01 Yes transport! Lots of folk have to travel on transport to get to school...
- 01:31:03 We are not all in this together. If you have to deal with Autism you live on the margins of society with little to no help or support
- 01:31:09 Lack of transition support my P7 has had NO engagement with her Secondary school. P7 task to colour in a lego figure and label it - great blended learning
- 01:31:16 A question must be asked re what will happen to parents whereby one is a key worker and the other furloughed. How will we find childcare for the days the kids are not in school and the furloughed parent is called back to work. This must affect many of us

01:31:19 We need a discussion between parents, pupils and Teachers around what is working and what is not. Give children a voice.

01:31:22 Been told a 24 seater bus will hold 4 pupils plus ASNA (as ASN transport) and driver!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

01:31:25 if you can only get 20% in a bus, how can you get 50% into school?

01:31:28 How can we communicate with our schools?it feels like they have not been provided the information from the local authority to make solid plans which they can then communicate with us

01:31:30 Once again what about ASN transport completely ignored

01:31:31 slc are increasing distance to qualify putting kids at risk asking them to cross busy roads walk through areas that are not safe

01:31:32 Not all schools are offering transition days, again lack of consistency across Local Authorities. Not a good first impression for children starting primary school or secondary school.

01:31:34 Will you be looking at school streets? Ensuring that kids can walk or cycle safely to schools?

01:31:35 What about ASN kids who go in taxis?

01:31:37 Any information about next years SQA exams for S4,S5,S6 - 50% isn't going to be enough for them to cover the curriculum

01:31:47 Scot gov needs to state what the national education standard is that councils have to adhere to and help with its implementation rather than leaving it to individual council discretion

01:31:48 How will rural transport cope with staggered start and finish times?

01:31:53 so how are parents supposed to juggle home schooling, working themselves and transport children when no other options?

01:31:55 How will there be enough school busses ?

01:31:57 the 2m spacing is to reduce the number of children spreading the virus to more vulnerable members of society.

01:31:58 SCRAP SOCIAL DISTANCING

01:32:04 the senior phase is not all of what education is about.....the S1-S3 need as much support as the senior phase.....

01:32:07 transport is a big issue for those of us in rural places - without school buses I would struggle to get my child to school

01:32:10 We have to fill out a survey today for our plans for using school transport

01:32:14        There should be minimum standards set and clear leadership.

01:32:22        The government needs to take this opportunity to revamp the whole education system. The discrepancies on teaching existed dependant on where you lived, they need to not make this a postcode lottery for children. It should not be left to each local authority to make decisions it needs to be more directive to them. There is no equity in current system so chance to change this now!!

01:32:22        is the Scottish government funding this extra transport cost ?

01:32:23        will SQA make any coursework adaptations for senior phase practical subjects or expect teachers to get pupils caught up?

01:32:24        If Scot Gov was dictating everyone would be up in arms because every local/school community will have individual needs. But saying to communicate with schools and local authorities is also met with outrage. There's no answer to any of this that will please everyone. It is clear to me that DFM is working incredibly hard to bring together guidance but allow flexibility for local responses to local needs.

01:32:24        Highland region have very small numbers of Covid both confirmed cases 197 and sadly deaths 49. We have 101 excess deaths population 235,000 therefore why can the SG not look at individual regions and is it legal and proportionate to recommend lockdown, social distancing etc When did anyone as a country isolate/quarantine HEALTHY people!!

01:32:27        A lot of this seems to be down to LA's - what clarity are you providing them to support LA's in making good plans?

01:32:30        For the last 3 months businesses have been working out how to provide their services under social distancing guidelines - why? because if they don't their businesses will go bust. Why is the education sector accepting a massive reduction in their services and considering this acceptable - because most parents have no other options and are a captive audience who have to take what they are given.

01:32:31        will additional funding be supplied for extra transport provision

01:32:32        You can only lay on extra transport if you have the money to do it?

01:32:36        we need clarity and leadership here. do not assume all schools are run by capable headteachers, thankfully mine is but what about those who need more guidance and clear answers to make the right decisions

01:32:45        Does John agree that the failure to provide adequate funding over the last decade, has lead us to be significantly under funded and ill-equipped to be able to deal with this as a nation? Cut backs to ASN provision, particularly over the last 5 years, leaves schools without the staff to provide the education necessary to close the gap, particularly with the situation we are now in.

01:32:45        Why is it all "local level" - we need some national consistency and strong leadership .

01:32:54        LACK OF CONSISTENCY IS THE PROBLEM

- 01:33:01 councils should be answering to the government so can the government just TELL councils what they must do as all the answers seem to be it's up to the schools.
- 01:33:03 LACK OF LEADERSHIP IS THE PROBLEM
- 01:33:06 I think the Scottish government passing everything back to a local level is not going to work - this needs leadership and a national directive
- 01:33:11 Local authorities need GOVERNMENT mandates not guidance they need to be TOLD to provide a proper education
- 01:33:25 YES!! THE POOR PARENT ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION IS CRUCKS OF ALL THE UNCERTAINTY PEOPLE ARE EXPERIENCING
- 01:33:29 This has to be a top down approach. the government set the policy and the LAs will need to comply
- 01:33:33 Please don't get into a local council bashing session which Scottish Government is very good at getting into.
- 01:33:38 LA pass to GOV and GOV pass right back to LA
- 01:33:47 Exams, exams, exams!! The point of education!!
- 01:33:48 Children with A.S.N. have been abandoned by too many local authorities.
- 01:33:49 Ellen Langdon: so the answer to every question is basically its up to the schools.
- 01:34:06 all kids will be struggling especially the seniors
- 01:34:14 all kids are mentally struggling by now
- 01:34:14 We've had lots of innovative thinking to get our health service ready to tackle COVID. where's the imagination for our schools? why aren't we having a national campaign use retired teacher / graduates? Why aren't we utilising outdoor space / public buildings? why aren't schools being cleaned overnight? It feels like there is more thought being given to how we open hotels up over getting our children back to school!
- 01:34:17 Parents of children with Autism have seen a marked reduction in their children stress and anxiety since they have stopped attending school. Will the Education Authority look at more support for these children.
- 01:34:25 So basically - 2m physical distancing in schools with 1/3 of pupils, school transport physical distancing - no PPE necessary and its up to the local authorities what they decide but it has to be inline with HPS guidance and Scottish gov. This isn't helpful. I get that the local authorities are busy drafting plans then changing them then drafting more for how they are going to ensure they maximise the number of children in school each day in August but how are they supposed to plan if the DFM cant answer questions in a straightforward manner?
- 01:34:43 Teachers don't have time for "emotional" support. . . Schools need staff for this only.

01:34:45 Our Council has been supporting children with ASN really well in the Children's Hubs, so please don't label all Councils in the same way.

01:34:47 Let parents and the kids decide!! I would bet my house the majority would be back full time

01:34:50 Please can we have an answer regarding Edinburgh LA and their proposal for children to only be in 1 day a week then a second days every 3 weeks so 5 days only a month- when many other LA are saying 2 days

01:34:57 1 day per week is not supporting students

01:35:02 If schools are just making all their own decisions (I feel for those headteachers), why can't they just decide to open and let the parents decide if they want to send their kids in?

01:35:09 STOP LEAVING IT UP TO SCHOOLS AND LOCAL AUTHORITY. YOU PREACH CONSISTENCY IS THE KEY. BE CONSISTENT AND STIPULATE RULES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND SCHOOLS TO FOLLOW

01:35:10 Sarah Gardiner: how can they learn when they feel safe and nurtured when everybody is potentially wearing masks, they can't see anybody's face and they need to keep 2m away???

01:35:28 If they are not in school for the next 6 months anxiety levels will be even higher. Better to be back in school sooner with manageable risks.

01:35:37 How are the kids going to cope with social distancing

01:35:38 There is a need to change your language they are safe in school!

01:35:45 Surely a key impact on mental health is the uncertainty about exams . Can we please talk about this?

01:35:46 We need to firm up the varying responses and approaches across the country. Can the SG ensure that we as parents know by 30th June exactly what schooling our children will be receiving? Can the SG confirm that employers must accommodate their employees increased caring responsibilities?

01:35:47 what about loss of education!

01:35:48 Stop scaremongering to keep us under control

01:35:49 I have a 15 year old boy whose exams are scrapped, clueless on next year's and will have not had a teacher for six months. Do something Mr Swinney!

01:35:55 fife secondary schools only 33% of the time as well

01:35:55 not being at school is negatively impacting their wellbeing. they are missing social aspects as well as education



- 01:35:56 As a youth worker we have already made plans to engage with young people in schools with a particular focus on health and well-being
- 01:35:58 parking the return to school process. why, in this digital age, do we still not have a consistent offering for learning ie teaching online?
- 01:35:59 Getting our children back to school full time in August will improve their wellbeing.
- 01:35:59 Lots of children rely on school for consistency in their lives, and also as a safe place to be. We need to get schools back.
- 01:36:00 Learning and development is the point of education, not exams. Exams are a necessary part of the process for senior learners under the systems of learning that the UK - and many other countries - operate. Exams are a by-product, not the essence.
- 01:36:01 School is some children's respite from a horrible home life
- 01:36:02 Can HM Insp of Education set minimum standards for delivery of educational provisions from August? I think its right that SG exert their power to ensure standards are being met during this time, its clear that some LA's need stronger input to guide/help/resource this plan
- 01:36:05 What support is there for parents on how to home school/teach? I am not familiar with teaching methods, play based learning or the curriculum. Will there be resources we can access to help parents?
- 01:36:07 My son has been attending a private nursery, due to start school in August in a completely new setting, completely new faces after being at home for 5 months. He already struggles around strangers, and being in school 33% of the time is not going to help
- 01:36:11 I would like to know that primarily in August schools will focus on Emotional well being and play. Lets talk about trauma, what will support the recovery and will it be one policy for all
- 01:36:13 Is the offer of face to face/real time zoom teaching remains zero, can our child get another full year of education after Covid-19?
- 01:36:15 so when they are at home and parents need to work will they be sitting in cars outside work places
- 01:36:15 how can they engage when they are there a fraction of the time
- 01:36:18 Does he realise ASN is more than kids from adverse homes. What about mental health, autism, FASD, and other significant learning issues
- 01:36:19 No extra time in Highland they slashed ASN support/PSAs last year and schools were already struggling before covid. Get them back to school as normal. Many need the routine/strucrure and also the lack of transitions to nursery, P1, S1
- 01:36:28 Are the private schools failing then with their commitment to 100% attendance?
- 01:36:39 Additional pressure of 2021 SQA exams will have a detrimental effect on senior pupil wellbeing

- 01:36:46 Not all independent schools are going back 100%
- 01:36:47 A massive part of the "well being of young people" is being at school. Friends, teachers, structure - all needed
- 01:36:50 why are Edinburgh council offering 33% and not 50%?
- 01:37:00 If it's up to the LA's then when are they going to receive the essential ADDITIONAL FUNDING to deliver this huge list of requirements. No funding = no change. Step up Scottish Government - you are the only ones that can make a difference.
- 01:37:01 In March, the SG set up a hospital with 2000 beds in the matter of 3 weeks. Funds were released, because it was a health crisis. Now we are in an Education Crisis - where children are unable to get the results they require to compete against their European counterparts. Yet STILL, the government are passing the buck to local Authorities. Putting up funds to help to make ventilators, that as yet, haven't been needed - can't the same be done for education.
- 01:37:03 What is the point of having a Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills if all the decisions have to be made by Local Authorities anyway? It does not seem to be actually answering the core questions about additional resources and actually delivering education....
- 01:37:04 is there guidance for teachers as to how much teaching /work should be given to children?
- 01:37:05 Being cynical, private schools will want to ensure they still get 100% income so will work something out to ensure children will be in 5 days
- 01:37:06 Please ask him to promise he will ensure AT LEAST 50%
- 01:37:16 There needs to be a NATIONAL support not left to each school that is very unfair
- 01:37:19 will there be extra money for mental health support?
- 01:37:23 is there any local authority actually offering 50% ? Fife secondary schools certainly no where near, and primary are 2 days per week so less than 50%
- 01:37:24 ASN NURSERY CHILDREN HAVE BEEN FORGOTTEN!!!! NO SPEECH THERAPY! REGRESSION.
- 01:37:25 Devi Sridhar has just said this on Twitter: "If COVID-19 numbers can be brought low enough in Scotland by 11 August (under 20 confirmed cases) & with appropriate 'test and protect' policies, my personal view is that schools should re-open as normally as possible (kids back full-time & able to play/interact together).
- 01:37:31 As you have stated that the 2m rule is the criterion on which you will base your decision to enable return to school - What have the scientific advisors said are the criteria for reducing the 2m rule?
- 01:37:31 what about childcare support to allow parents to get back to work. surely if govt can fund furlough scheme they could help pay for childcare provision on the 3 days children aren't in school?

- 01:37:32 The NHS got national priority EDUCATION needs to be the same
- 01:37:33 Please ask him to promise he will ensure AT LEAST 50%
- 01:37:37 What does the scot gov want to see across councils as a national standard?????  
Specify it for continuity
- 01:37:38 what about the HWB of teachers??
- 01:37:41 There won't be relationship between teachers and pupils if they are not at school !
- 01:37:51 Where is the call for retired teachers? retired doctors and nurses answered in their droves! you built a hospital. Put the same towards extra staff, portacabins etc to maximise capacity. Fundamentally JS has no information for us as the buck is passed to the LAs.
- 01:37:53 schools need standards guidelines to follow to ensure consistency
- 01:37:55 Too many of our young people are at risk of leaving higher education prematurely, demotivated as a result of cancelled exams and an education system that is not responding quickly enough. Will you consider extending the EMA to ALL S5/S6 students as an incentive?
- 01:37:57 Funding announcements for businesses etc but the young people from nursery to secondary are our future. Why are you not announcing funding to help and support them? Ie for more teachers, buildings, PPE, mental health support etc.
- 01:37:57 SG should mandate at least 50% face-to-face schooling.
- 01:38:04 The relationship between pupils and staff you speak about Mr Swinney are being eroded by kids not being in school.
- 01:38:05 how are parents supposed to manage whilst working, childminding, caring for all siblings, home schooling it's impossible
- 01:38:06 address pupil non engagement please
- 01:38:13 If the scientific advice changes, how long will it take them to revise guidance to local authorities? Can they revise guidance now so that a plans are ready?
- 01:38:19 Why does a school have to close for a whole day on a Wednesday for a deep clean - can this not be done over night - we could then have children attending 5 days over 2 weeks?
- 01:38:21 transitions for the new P1s-what effect will this have on the next generation?
- 01:38:22 Do you know how long it takes to train as a YP mental health, counselling YEARS!!!! Educ staff cannot be expected to pick this up as well as supporting YP educ etc
- 01:38:26 for senior students, how can you reassure them that they will all get the same standard of teaching? Some have missed the end of their nat 5 coursework, haven't been able to sit exams and are now expected to do a lot of their Higher work themselves? They're at such a disadvantage

- 01:38:27 Fiona Rough: Important to know what will be in place for children in S4/S5/S6 who are at a critical point in their education and potential for longer time life consequences here
- 01:38:29 You criticised Edinburgh yesterday for their plans not being good enough. Which LA is doing it well? Who is setting the benchmark?
- 01:38:29 What about exams next year, my 15 year old daughter missed out on Nat5's now worried about highers and how she is going to pass them with part time learning and how will universities/employers look at these results?
- 01:38:46 schools need to step up and now take ownership for education, there is no national plan
- 01:38:55 Frankly Edinburgh LA's offer has been dud for years. It is not by chance their best schools rank dreadfully. They go home on Friday afternoon at the best of times and start school at 8.34 to add a few minutes here and there, so the teachers get home early!
- 01:38:57 YES to full time return
- 01:38:59 Aberdeen City Council are doing a great job through all of this
- 01:39:03 SG is not fulfilling its very own GIRFEC.
- 01:39:06 How are the teachers meant to know their pupils when all pupils will probably be going back to a new teacher after the summer holidays!
- 01:39:06 It's not that he doesn't care he has no power
- 01:39:07 John Swinney just keeps saying that each local authority need to write their own plans. we would have been better off with them on such a call. Nothing of any substance here
- 01:39:07 YES TO FULL TIME RETURN
- 01:39:16 Physical health - what are the plans for delivery of physical education to children.
- 01:39:17 they don't need retired teachers because there are no jobs. The local authorities need funding. This is the real issue.
- 01:39:21 18 days to kit out a temp hospital why has the same not been actioned for Education
- 01:39:22 Inconsistency amongst LA's and individual schools remains the issue. Blanket approach for all please and leadership from the top. Stop the postcode lottery on our children's education and match manifesto pledges with action. Close the attainment gap for all of Scotland's young people. Give them the best start in life regardless of their parents' income!
- 01:39:25 will do exams be different given that they are only at school two days a week we are not teachers
- 01:39:26 Yes to FT return
- 01:39:26 I think full time return would be best

01:39:26 If external assessment in schools is also cancelled for next year, will Scot Govt engage with universities about ensuring appropriate transitional support, otherwise at the end of the first university semester, many learners will be sitting perhaps their first significant summative assessment, thereby being unprepared for the way much of the learning is assessed at university?

01:39:28 Scot Gov should be ashamed at their response, the way they are letting down a generation children.

01:39:32 ALL PARENT COUNCILS NEED TO GIVE SCHOOLS FULL SUPPORT NOW SINCE SCHOOLS BEING LEFT TO OWN DEVICES

01:39:34 Think we are perhaps under estimating our children and projecting our anxieties on to them, they are more resilient than we give them credit for

01:39:34 So Mr Swinney, your call to action is to commit to at least 50% face to face schooling for every child - go make that happen! A new hospital was built in a few weeks in Glasgow so you have the to get this right for our kids.

01:39:34 50% return to taught education is simply not good enough. Kids need to return full-time.

01:39:44 no to full time....cant keep 2m rule at full capacity!

01:39:47 What plans will there be in place to provide outdoor sports camps and holiday clubs during the summer? Parents are working and no structure of daily school work exposes the mental and physical health of children even more during the 6-8 weeks of summer holidays.

01:39:51 East Lothian Council schools and teachers have been doing a great job through out this.

01:39:57 You mentioned using retired teachers to fill gaps. Where are LA's getting the money to fund this?

01:39:57 Fill every playground with protocabins - problem solved

01:39:58 If ALL MSPs from ALL parties would agree to bring control of education to Holyrood, we could progress a lot faster by changing the law. As it stands legally in Scotland all ANY Scottish Government can do is propose plans to Councils, but councils can choose to completely ignore SG. That's why all councils are doing different things at differing paces.

01:39:59 DFM please describe a typical day for a school pupil transitioning from ASN P7 to ASN S1 just so I can explain to my son...

01:40:02 show us scientific evidence for balancing these harms if that's been at heart of decision making

01:40:02 Leave everything to LAs and individual schools and the SG can make sure they're not to blame.

01:40:09 The LA are best place to decide their own course of action otherwise you would have the same approach for Glasgow as for the Highlands.

01:40:10 Kids need stability, structure and routine - getting up in the morning, seeing their friends before school, doing lessons, engaging with their peers and teacher, burning energy at break and lunch and then a bit of variety or focus again after lunch. Kids are going to have a variety of mental health issue (if not already) by time they go back in Aug - help them!! (and their respective teachers / staff!)

01:40:11 is this about lack of funding available for education. part time learning would help reduce the budget

01:40:27 we were able to fund and prepare a temporary hospital to cope with potential covid cases why can we not do the same for schools we have plenty time

01:40:33 Frameworks are just pieces of paper created by people sitting in an office who have no idea of what is really happening to people on the ground, how will you ensure your framework is actually being adhered to by LA and schools

01:40:35 One of the scientific advisors to the SG says if new cases 20 or below then school should go back as normal

01:40:36 Will you pay for the extra childcare costs?

01:40:38 The only way to help the majority of our children is to get them back to school!

01:40:41 Not enough staff trained on mental health first aid

01:40:52 pay for more teaching space, and supply teachers,problem solved

01:40:56 COVID-19 is as rare as many infectious diseases which have never resulted in schools closing. Evidence shows children are not super-spreaders. There are much greater harms in keeping schools closed. The response is not proportionate.

01:41:10 My son with severe autism was abandoned and kicked out of secondary with no transition package.

01:41:11 Please hold Edinburgh City Council to account with their own day a week nonsense proposal

01:41:12 What about Probationers John? Our small school has had a probationer for the last 2 years, and may be facing all these changes, and another probationer, with the same cohort of children. Can you advise that there is going to be some specific focus around the placement of these teachers? We would rather keep the one we currently have for the next year, rather than having to welcome yet another teacher to our 2 teacher school.

01:41:27 Porto cabins would be great if schools had the staff to put in them! Can't divide staff between classes!!

01:41:38 GIRFEC is not working for children with autism

01:41:40 Glasgow City council have made a mockery of their plans and I for one will not be sending my son back for 2.5 hrs per day 5 days per week as it's pointless & laughable. what happened to the plan of kids being in school 2/3 full days and home learning for the rest of the week

01:41:43 Senior pupils have already missed out on sitting their exams in April/May/June. You must do absolutely everything in your power to make sure it doesn't happen next year. For those entering S6 it is last chance saloon. Had to accept the exam situation this year. Two years in a row would be unacceptable.

01:41:45 In the longer term, this will result in massive increases in conscious & unconscious biases towards hiring/promoting etc prospects of females. I fear we will lose decades of progress for women's equality in the workplace (which still has plenty of room for improvement but certainly should not be allowed to go backwards as an unintended consequence of enforcing social distancing in schools & childcare settings)

01:41:47 Evidence shows that there is no major effect on children if they miss a few months education in school. Learning does not only happen in school!

01:41:49 there are staff but they won't pay for it

01:41:51 unfortunately you are not getting it right for any children at the moment and something needs to be done about it now

01:41:59 As said by Tony above: let SG take over running of education. Local authorities only implementing guidance. Or ignoring as they see fit.

01:42:00 are you looking to review employment legislation to support parents not in the position to work from home?

01:42:02 did i miss the news saying that we have a vaccine and noone else will die of covid? all these calls for return to full time are ridiculous.

01:42:02 If hubs are only child care only how are the educational requirements of key worker children met?

01:42:04 education policy and delivery needs to be brought in to central government. Local government has had its day, and is failing our children

01:42:06 Our school is closing for 1 day to deep clean - can this not be done out of hours? This would allow an additional day per week.

01:42:08 What about SQA exams in April. How can they go ahead if they have only received part time teaching/learning?

01:42:09 Full time for those who want to and home learning for those who want to

01:42:13 yes if they open extra buildings community centres etc where will they get the staff ?

01:42:14 much bigger harm keeping children away from school for much longer .

01:42:15 How do we deal with work issues? You need to put out a timeline!

01:42:17 GIRFEC. . . always a loop. My daughter hasn't had her needs met so what's the chances now.

- 01:42:27 Education in Scotland was on its knees before Covid as a result of the cuts the government have had for many years now. Additional Support was one of the hardest hit areas so god only knows how our pupils with ASN will be supported now!!!
- 01:42:27 What about nurseries? losing out on life skills, speech therapy????
- 01:42:39 the NHS was overwhelmed with offers to return to practise to help out - why isn't education making the same requests?
- 01:42:40 Girfec does not meet the needs of all children with ADHD
- 01:42:41 you're not GIRFEC that's the whole point... all children need structure and routine and this blended learning put pressure on the children who ultimately parents are not teachers so may get it wrong and the stress the parents are going to endure as well....
- 01:42:47 We are sleepwalking toward having no exams in 2021.
- 01:42:48 pupils not receiving required 160 hours for N5 and Higher courses?
- 01:42:58 what about nurseries?
- 01:43:01 Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Council have been shocking in their communication it's non existent. Aberdeen council say a third of time in school as a maximum with many not even reaching that. Please advise what you are doing to amend this
- 01:43:09 Autism assessments have been put on hold with speech and language services etc being done by video chats for 12+ mths why???
- 01:43:13 choice is there for those who want to keep kids at home - give those who want to return full time that choice / opportunity
- 01:43:22 Amazing how many parents see their children spending more time with them as being damaging. Are we not best placed as parents to support our children with teachers supporting and providing resources for their learning.
- 01:43:28 Parents have to work during the summer holidays- who is looking after the kids if no holidays clubs etc. are going to be open????
- 01:43:28 My son has been kicked out with NO transition package.
- 01:43:30 perhaps offering PPE to teachers and attempting to keep them safe might help retired teachers feel able to come back.
- 01:43:36 the emergency hospital was able to happen because there is only 1 NHS Scotland as oppose to 32 separate councils playing with education along party lines!!!
- 01:43:45 Can other facilities like gyms and museum be used to deliver 5 days of face to face leaning?
- 01:43:48 child has had no school for over a year as la cant meet his needs now they have no chance disgusting



01:43:52 If classes are too small to accommodate children, find alternate spaces . . . . . think outside the box & get our country back up and running. Our Education system used to be a world leader.

01:43:53 What about those educated through the medium of Gaelic?

01:43:59 Please ask how the additional efforts and measures will be funded. If parents want their expectations to be met they have to be properly resourced.

01:44:00 Why do independent school open full time and state funded schools don't. You need a can do attitude and not decide fate of school opening prematurely at this point in time.

01:44:06 So basically it's up to individual schools to support with guidance from GERFEC through Covid19....Is it up to an individual school if they will change a nappy for an ASN child???

01:44:07 please ask about support for nursery children moving into P1, why not delay the start date?

01:44:09 Given that wrap around care was a SG priority, can the SG provide an indication of what requirements need to be met in order for wraparound care to start again?

01:44:18 for support levels to stay the same for children with ASNs, this cannot be delivered without additional staffing to our schools?

01:44:20 Is the Scottish Government giving local authorities more cash to enable them to expand capacity & resources and have more pupils in school ?

01:44:24 outdoor classrooms - marquees, tents!

01:44:24 ASN support barely in existence in Highland. No diminution means just as bad as ever when a massive increase in support is needed to meet the demands associated with COVID. No diminution is an insult, when restoration of ASN support is required and beyond.

01:44:24 Can you please look at examples in different countries who have done much better than the UK?

01:44:25 struggling to see how courses can be taught in full, in a timely manner. Children need to know about exams next year. Causing real stress in our home.

01:44:25 Will the funding be ring fenced??

01:44:27 local authorities have reduced the number of educational psychologists they employ how does this equate to your policy of health and wellbeing at the centre of educational policy?

01:44:42 how are seniors in high school to achieve are they going to be graded on their performance or are exams going to be permitted in some way????

01:44:52 Where is accountability if council refuse to follow GIRFEC

01:44:53 Senior pupils in full time, if they wear PPE??

- 01:45:00 the LAs obviously need more funding
- 01:45:05 How many probationers have just qualified? So those teachers have now qualified but have no job. Why not use them to staff to increase capacity? And a job freeze in Highland? What is going on?
- 01:45:08 And the councils don't know what to spend it on (laptops or portacabins). Portacabins please!
- 01:45:11 NO POINT THROWING MONEY TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES IF YOU ARE NOT TELLING THEM WHAT TO DO WITH IT ACROSS THE BOARD FOR CONSISTENCY
- 01:45:17 Extend the school day by an extra hour and give pupils a 2 hour lunch break so they can have lunch safely at home.
- 01:45:24 exams aren't everything maybe this will get us towards using continuous assessment to much better extent. however universities have managed to deliver very good exams. why not learn from them in delivering assessment.
- 01:45:25 What protection will the SG provide for parents who are at risk of losing their jobs because lack of childcare means they cannot get out to work? Or can't meet performance expectations because they're balancing working from home with the enormous responsibility of supporting their childrens' education?
- 01:45:25 The funding has been inadequate for years and the extra put in by the SG so far is nowhere near enough to deal with the impact.
- 01:45:32 stop with the asking for polls about return to full time education. current society dictates that can't happen. while we have any form of social distancing, schools cannot return to normal. its up to LAs to make the current terrible situation work as well as possible
- 01:45:37 please ask about funding - because LA are saying there is no funding for additional teachers. Most probationers have no jobs and supply is limited. They need more to manage the blended learning model.
- 01:45:40 more more more but teachers are not robot either - money is needed
- 01:45:44 how are local government being held accountable for that tax payers money?
- 01:45:44 Please answer questions on timeline for returning, exams, provision of extra staff and space to enable earlier return.
- 01:45:45 I think the government and Scottish education are doing the best they can under the circumstances of the pandemic. Education is extremely important but so is the safety of the staff, children and family.
- 01:45:48 schools don't appear to be getting any money
- 01:45:50 Is the funding ring fenced?
- 01:45:52 This is not about finances this is about our children's learning and future potential!!!

- 01:45:53 Veronica MacPherson: are you blaming it all LAs??
- 01:45:55 show me the MONEY??? because we are not receiving it and the local authorities say they have no funding either !!!
- 01:45:57 Teachers can only do so much! They do need to sleep
- 01:45:59 Is the LA to ringfence the ELC funding so that the ELC 1140 hours can be met following Covid-19
- 01:46:04 They could use Louisa Jordan that is already set up for 2000 social distanced spaces!
- 01:46:11 we need to protect our teachers also as there is less and less teachers
- 01:46:16 Open schools in Scotland fully in August without social distancing –
- 01:46:19 The early years provision was already 3 years behind England and will now be behind another year...
- 01:46:29 Education needs to be Government led & not LA, this is extenuating circumstances and there needs to be joined up thinking on this.
- 01:46:30 the ones who have just got their full licence and cant secure a job have been left to find supply jobs where they can be booked full time but with no pay over summer like permanent contracts
- 01:46:31 It is 2 weeks before the teachers go off for weeks. They need clear direction to put portacabins in NOW
- 01:46:31 Is PEF to be used for front line child care costs?
- 01:46:32 Head teachers have had their budgets removed. Why is that?
- 01:46:33 there should be no questions asked when money is being given to schools / education . how many hospitals were built and not being used
- 01:46:34 no 1140 hours for early learning and childcare either it's down to 600 hours ????
- 01:46:42 Minimum 50% face-to-face learning, please
- 01:46:48 I support full time return in August. Blended learning is the plan of the the Scottish Government, therefore take action, ensure consistency. stop passing the buck to individual schools and local authorities. If this can't be one scrap this nonsense and get our kids back to school full time. our children are missing out on vital education and developing skills as set out in the curriculum of excellence.
- 01:46:50 Yet another example of LAs not putting money to good use. They put it into building new facilities rather than working with existing PVI settings LAs need to be held accountable!
- 01:46:57 Can you please discuss children who do not understand this situation for example a non verbal autistic child who has struggled with lockdown

- 01:47:10 why is blended learning not being looked at as a plan b
- 01:47:12 more funding for LAs required
- 01:47:19 My son was kicked out with no transition - can he stay in secondary for another year so I can go back to teach?
- 01:47:21 no mention at all for kids awaiting tribunal
- 01:47:23 WHO IS ON THE EDUCATION RECOVERY GROUP?
- 01:47:28 There is new money in the system. It is money that is already defined by SG of what it should be spent on.
- 01:47:38 Kids in transition should not be held back - this won't help anyone.
- 01:47:41 Can my son have a transition please before he is kicked out?
- 01:47:53 NO VIRTUAL TRANSITION EITHER
- 01:47:54 Transition in Edinburgh - a worksheet.
- 01:47:59 Virtual is not for A.S.N.
- 01:48:03 my daughter, P7, only transition was another Google classroom to log into
- 01:48:04 We've had NO transition experiences
- 01:48:06 a lego figure to colour in in Aberdeen
- 01:48:06 The answer to every question is "see your LA". My school keep saying " have to wait for advice from Govt".
- 01:48:10 my son is moving into P1 and is to go in to the school for 1 hour for his transition session.
- 01:48:12 No attending transition for my Edinburgh child
- 01:48:12 there has been no transition support
- 01:48:14 virtual is not the same, children on enhanced are getting an hour next week. . . .please send them back first
- 01:48:14 Please .... S4 S5 S6. More face to face for them to prepare them for exams? Or will exams get cancelled again. Presumably there will be a back up plan this year so we are not relying on teachers to guess grades
- 01:48:16 The fundamental disagreement is that I feel children need to go to school full time.
- 01:48:18 I agree the goal should be to return children to school full time and blended learning being plan b.

- 01:48:19 Again no face to face transition in East Dunbartonshire but face to face in West Dunbartonshire, no consistency
- 01:48:23 transition important I have a p7 -s1 but more concerned about my child who was unable to sit nat 5 and has no ice how higher will go
- 01:48:25 My son has had no transition and has been kicked out of his senior phase.
- 01:48:35 Will tribunal open back up so those awaiting decision will have a place for august
- 01:48:39 P1 transition has been excellent for us
- 01:48:43 No nursery to P1 transition in D&G - personally don't mind this and would rather focus was on P7 to S1 transition
- 01:48:44 Lots of virtual transition in East Lothian - the school have done what they can but it's no substitute for being in the building and experiencing high school
- 01:48:44 education should not be dependent on what school your child goes too or what LA they are under it needs to be consistent
- 01:48:47 We had in Highland approx. 230+ children/YP receiving less than 50% fulltime mainstream education and that was before COVID. Why has blended learning never been an option then
- 01:48:49 Tell us If they have parents , Teachers on the Recovery Group
- 01:48:49 Can DFM require all Dir of Educ of all LAs to hold parent Zooms before July?????? Just a thought if Scot Gov can't answer and all is LA decision.
- 01:49:06 I ACTUALLY CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT IM SEEING. A PETITION TO OPEN SCHOOLS IN AUGUST WITH ZERO SOCIAL DISTANCING
- 01:49:11 Why isn't ELC money being used to mitigate the negative impact on the sector during this current crisis. Many nurseries fearing they might go out of business with thin financial margins.
- 01:49:12 Children at the end of their educational journey needs greater support. This is their future that is being affected. We will see a higher level of unemployment around these groups of pupils due to the apparent apathy for SG or LA to address any of the issues/ concerns we have.
- 01:49:13 Transition has been managed well in my school but that is down to the teachers - not the same at a school 10 miles away
- 01:49:17 Given this extra funding, why is our Council (Highland) looking at raiding PEF budgets of individual schools which will mean less support for vulnerable children in these schools at a time when they will need more support not less?
- 01:49:29 Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, along with the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges:

"The discussion of risk cannot only be about the risks of COVID-19 but must include the risks of keeping schools closed."

01:49:29 The main issue is consistency - great transition and communication for my son's Aberdeenshire school.

01:49:30 We have had some activities on seesaw, but I don't think it's enough transition support.

01:49:36 Senior phase - can we have quality rather than quantity? Please.

01:49:39 can the 1140 hours not be accommodated in private nurseries?

01:49:49 PPE = school attendance - why is this not being discussed!

01:49:58 I'd really welcome the suggestion of a similar conversation with local authority heads of education and conveners of local education committees

01:49:59 Have our local authorities had clear guidance on what they are expected to deliver? and is this achievable in the timeframes?

01:50:00 A child's learning should not be a lottery dependent on their school catchment which is exactly what is going to happen.

01:50:00 East Lothian Council are holding a skype meeting with all its parent councils. Good on them for showing real commitment to parental engagement.

01:50:01 without the RIGHT decisions we will have a lot of children and young people requiring mental health service support

01:50:02 My son's private nursery has been closed, this could have opened to P1 leavers to give them that support. Why hasn't this happened?

01:50:04 I'm not in favour of sending my daughter back to school full-time until I see how the school is planned out. She doesn't even have a school as they had a huge fire that destroyed all p1-p6 classrooms. They were decanted to 3 different schools and then lockdown happened. All their resources are still in their decant schools which they need to get back.

01:50:09 I absolutely support getting the kids back to school as normal in august if the infection rate continues on the decline that it is on. Anything less is negligent

01:50:10 Its not stupid to open schools in august if most children are already spending time together with zero social distancing...look around you outside!

01:50:13 Teachers can not effectively and simultaneously plan and teach for exams during blended learning and for no exams, we need to know either way ASAP

01:50:26 Exams. Why can't our kids sit them, as they will be able to do in England?

01:50:30 S Isbrand: Can the SQA cut back the syllabus for Highers?

- 01:50:33 1140 hours is not happening it's 600 in my jurisdiction!!
- 01:50:36 removing 1140 from people who had it is equally as unfair as not rolling it out.
- 01:50:36 Blended learning NEEDS to be 'Plan B'. We should be focusing on how we get our children all back to school full-time in August.
- 01:50:41 thanks Leanne so didn't say anything about it?
- 01:50:45 How can schools follow Girfec when they dont even know what is happening yet?!
- 01:50:54 Outdoor learning is great, we need more of it!
- 01:50:55 I don't think schools know what outdoor learning is
- 01:50:57 Will council funded out of school clubs reopen?
- 01:50:59 Outdoor learning - great idea! Would work with smaller class sizes, particularly for primary school
- 01:51:01 working parents need childcare to get back to work....
- 01:51:04 Outdoor learning in a Scottish autumn and winter!!
- 01:51:09 The people wanting the schools open in Aug full time do you not think that if this was an option that it will be it is not in the governments interest to keep them closed or at a reduced capacity. It is for safety for not just your children (they can die from this although it is more rare), but also for the wider community.
- 01:51:11 Its also not stupid to open schools if you weigh up the risk of coronavirus with the risk of detrimental effects to pupils lives - health and wellbeing is severely affected by home schooling stress..
- 01:51:14 outdoor learning from what I have seen is the past is not quality learning. The children on the whole get bored.
- 01:51:33 Outdoor learning works in all seasons if done properly...
- 01:51:37 outdoor learning is fabulous if done right
- 01:51:39 Standing in the rain in the woods is daughters school ODL
- 01:51:45 Outdoor learning is an amazing way of bringing small children close to nature.
- 01:51:46 Aberdeen City has a googlemeet for all PC chairs tomorrow evening, very positive way of communicating and engaging with parents
- 01:51:50 have kids out in the rain to come home with a cold to then be told not to come to school till it clears. yeah really well thought out
- 01:51:51 ! OUR CHILDREN NEED TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL. FULL TIME. AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

- 01:51:52 Properly funded, outdoor education is powerful. Will it be properly funded?
- 01:52:01 This pandemic has made parents realise they don't know enough about exactly what the core parts of the subject based curriculum are and that, faced with home schooling, we want to understand what our kids are expected to know in each subject as a minimum so that we can do what we can to help them get the basics. Ive found better stuff online for some subjects than have been provided from the school. Aspects of CfE can appear to parents as wooly - we want to know how to best explain telling the time or long division rather than try to create an effective contributor
- 01:52:10 Kids waiting on tribunal decisions when court is closed
- 01:52:13 The government already changed the goal posts on large gatherings during phase 1 and 2 - accepting groups of kids into schools for transition visits....so why not change the goal posts now for full time attendance in august???
- 01:52:14 Anxiety about exams is high amongst pupils parents and staff
- 01:52:15 Outdoor learning is great but it's a different skill set from normal teaching - you can't just shove everyone outside!
- 01:52:16 Could local sports/activity/outdoor providers be involved in providing opportunities next session eg sports/nature.
- 01:52:17 Edinburgh have a fab Outdoor learning programme run by Additional Support for Learning
- 01:52:20 outdoor learning is great but when will the necessary training be done??? Over night?
- 01:52:21 As a PC chair we have had whole school parent updates using google meet too - communication has been key
- 01:52:22 A review of exam structure for next couple of years needs to be undertaken to support( I don't mean make the exam more lenient) needs to be more review of work throughout the year & not a final exam
- 01:52:25 Why, in these unprecedented times, has Scottish Government not been more closely involved with education provision during and after the pandemic? Should local authorities not have received greater support during this time, both in guidance and in financial support?
- 01:52:33 The A.S.N. court is open for time sensitive cases. We are using it.
- 01:52:35 Exactly that's why we need a National Education Service, just like the NHS. Any NHS not performing can be taken to task by SG. In Education each LA does there own thing.
- 01:52:36 Outdoor learning can be fabulous however I don't think it should be used as a back up plan whilst kids have to social distance.
- 01:52:37 I'm all for outdoor learning with the right equipment! Not all learning needs to take place in the classroom!
- 01:52:41 STroon: loss of 160 hours



- 01:52:42 bottom line is that ASN support shouldn't be reduced. Did not acknowledge the appalling lack of ASN support in many regions pre-COVID and the fact that the challenges of COVID related changes etc is likely to require a significant increase rather than no reduction in the pitiful existing provision.
- 01:52:59 Done well outdoor learning lovely for young children. Isn't going to help older children acquire a body of knowledge or pass exams
- 01:53:00 Will exams go ahead?
- 01:53:01 Edinburgh state school children will only be in ONE DAY A WEEK. Please ask about this.
- 01:53:01 what evidence is there against schools reopening as normal in 2 months' time? Why is normal reopening not considered as 'Plan A', with contingencies in place should this prove not possible as lockdown eases?
- 01:53:02 internal or external assessment? both?
- 01:53:04 basically said they would be supported but no details how, no details how to support complex needs, avoidance, nonsense. Hopefully he will take this away and prepare a response.
- 01:53:04 outdoor learning has been very successful in our nursery
- 01:53:06 This is interesting re parent council meetings - we've not had any or much contact with head teacher more than just a weekly letter checking in. Nothing in terms of consulting or working through plans together
- 01:53:09 But outdoor learning would need funding the schools cannot magic equipment out of nothing - we need better answers on all these questions
- 01:53:13 SQA need to make changes to course and Assessment requirements.
- 01:53:16 go back to school full time
- 01:53:26 What evidence will you look for in order to make the decision to fully reopen schools?
- 01:53:28 Are 2021 exam going ahead?
- 01:53:32 practical subjects?
- 01:53:32 One example of good outdoor learning, honed over time, does not outdoor learning make!
- 01:53:32 blended learning does not give what is needed to pass exams
- 01:53:33 Can you reshape the syllabus for Highers/Adv Highers.
- 01:53:34 all seniors need face to face learning . blended learning will not work

01:53:34 Parents have done a great job! Well done! Now teachers and the Government have to do their jobs and TEACH the children and LEAD the country. Get on with it. You are being paid to do it! retired teacher 40 years now teaching grandson remotely because the teachers can't!

01:53:41 one day a week in Edinburgh????

01:53:47 We have been consulted and had input into school return plans

01:53:50 PARENT COUNCILS .... please liaise with your school. If they have not been in touch then approach your school to see how you can help

01:53:51 Please comment on Scotland's capital city offering only 1 day a week.

01:54:04 what about working parents and not being able to home school.....

01:54:07 what about universities ?? are they onboard with it all ?

01:54:07 I love the idea of Out door Learning, but many kids where I work are Low income families, will there be money for outdoor where? Some dont ahve coats and proper shoes! Also, Will there be support / funding for local community groups to accomodate schools with very little outdoor space for learning and well being activities?

01:54:10 with all the fear mongering, a lot of parents won't want their children going to school in august so there might be smaller classes. that would give more space to those wanting full time.

01:54:10 Blended learning a.k.a. as part time education is only a viable option for the more able.

01:54:11 if kids need an adequate learning and experience to enable them to undertake exams, does that then mean next years exams will be cancelled as they are not getting adequate learning and experience

01:54:12 How can you taken an exam with inadequate learning?

01:54:13 Can we ask how one day a week or 33% with different days is going to work where parents work and how can you get childcare if no fixed dates if education?

01:54:17 SQA need to change and announce their approach. It is difficult enough to deliver the curriculum effectively in the time as it is - they will be wholly unprepared with blended learning even if it only lasts until December

01:54:17 how can they be equipped if not getting taught properly

01:54:18 Edinburgh will only get 1 day a week, how can they get adequate education in 1 day a week??

01:54:18 how can we do blended learning when we have to work????? how is this going to work for working parents. please answer this

- 01:54:23        how can key workers achieve any blended learning? throughout all of this our children are in childcare hubs where there is zero education going on. totally unmanageable going forward
- 01:54:23        so exams will go ahead but with woefully prepared kids
- 01:54:25        Please stop with the fake term 'blended learning'. I can only assume that JS's younger child is at a private school and he has no direct experience of the online state school offering.
- 01:54:33        What is the plan for sport?
- 01:54:34        Will there be study time in schools in holidays?
- 01:54:34        East Lothian Council are holding a skype meeting with all its Parent Councils. Good on them for their commitment to parental engagement.
- 01:54:35        how can teachers catch pupils up who are not engaging?
- 01:54:35        I'm sorry but I'm not qualified to teach higher maths etc at home . teachers go to uni for x amount of years to deliver these courses
- 01:54:37        How can they go ahead when the required learning has not been achieved!!
- 01:54:42        How can they go ahead if pupils have not had the required number of hours actual teaching?
- 01:54:47        will PE classes happen?
- 01:54:51        What about chatting about how the gap in school face to face lessons will be filled!
- 01:54:53        equity issues for practical subject home working
- 01:54:54        what if the plan fails. what's the contingency?
- 01:54:59        PE is needed
- 01:55:01        I agree how can they sit exams when the learning is not adequate!
- 01:55:03        How can Nat 5 PE happen at home?
- 01:55:11        why isn't blended learning the contingency?????
- 01:55:17        Good to hear that exams plan to go ahead. But they planned to go ahead this year! What are the contingency plans if the same happens next year. Please tell me you have a plan!
- 01:55:19        Outdoor learning = secondary school portacabins in the car parks/playing fields please. considerably more practical than 'wigwams' in Scottish autumn & winter climate. invigilators and live video teaching by own teacher

01:55:19 Will exams be reconfigured to reflect blended learning? If the plan is for 2021 exams to go ahead, will prelims take place in Nov/Dec as in previous years? How will this work in the practical subjects?

01:55:19 PE needs to happen , also the SFA performance schools need to deliver their lessons

01:55:23 we can't complete practical subjects during normal school years, let alone part time school time

01:55:25 is there a continuity plan being prepared?

01:55:25 Why can't they just use the phrase 'less teaching'.

01:55:27 they won't have had enough education for exams next year

01:55:29 practical subjects are only getting the same as other subjects in my region

01:55:30 Please commit to at least 50% for ALL Scottish children

01:55:30 how can exams go ahead in 2021 if there is variations as to what teaching YP will receive

01:55:30 South Ayrshire LA only allowed 6 parents to attend a meeting about education!

01:55:33 Does John acknowledge the number of parents that will have to give up their jobs to stay home to facilitate part-time schooling. A loss of income means more people claiming Universal Credit and more poverty in society. This is damaging in the extreme.

01:55:34 How do I support my S4 daughter at home to study for exams when I am at work as a key NHS worker and my husband is away from home as a key oil worker

01:55:38 If next years exams go ahead the attainment gap will widen significantly, those in private schools are receiving a different level of education to those of us with kids in state schools

01:55:39 how can pupils realistically sit exams on 2 days of direct teaching if this was possible we would have been doing that for years?

01:55:40 this year's exams should not have been cancelled

01:55:48 Children have been off school for too long. It is evident millionaire John Swinney is totally clueless to the problems poor and vulnerable children are having during this time. Having 2 days a week of school for pupils will have serious consequences.

01:55:55 Blended Learning - its a euphemism....it means less teaching and more stress at home. I am a teacher and I do not think blended learning has worked so far...we need kids back in school, the risk of covid is less than the risk to our young people's education and their health and well being

01:55:59 How can exams be fair when my son is largely teaching himself advanced higher maths, chemistry and physics

- 01:56:02 They have missed 3 mths of course work and are going back for less than half the week. How will they be ready for exams
- 01:56:03 So does that mean that children doing academic rather than practical subjects might get even less time in school if he is saying they have to prioritise the time for practical subjects??
- 01:56:08 very disappointed in this he is not answering well at all our children are suffering this is not good time to give them the education they deserve they are the future generation
- 01:56:12 How can SQA have exams that are fair when the learning will be so different?
- 01:56:13 this years exams should have been sat.
- 01:56:13 will externally assessed coursework components still go ahead AS WELL AS exams?
- 01:56:14 Mr Swinney, the exams cannot happen when the young people have not been taught the subject! Please be realistic
- 01:56:16 Will the SQA make allowances for the time missed?
- 01:56:18 seniors need to be in school more with face to face learning
- 01:56:24 I will say it again. 2021 exam pupils have had less time in school than 2020 kids who didn't sit exams. how can it be right to go ahead with 2021 exams with two days in school
- 01:56:27 Some private providers are talking about offering child care to fill in what school can not deliver. Only parents who can afford to pay will get this, so only well paid parents will be able to work
- 01:56:29 How are any of our children going to ne able to pass these exams You "promise to provide" when my child gets one live class per week and whats looking to be 1 day of school per week?!
- 01:56:29 Ok so its up to your own school to ensure learning can be done, and done safely. As long as they follow GIRFEC that will be the plan....
- 01:56:37 parents not given any opportunity to work with schools on future plans
- 01:56:39 s4 to s5 surely can be in full time
- 01:56:43 How can you expect all kids in Scotland to sit the same exam in the same day when the amount of face to face teaching time will vary from school to school?
- 01:56:45 exam can go ahead but they need to be adapted!!!
- 01:56:48 if pupils aren't in school how can they prepare for exams ???!
- 01:56:51 why can senior pupils not be in full time???
- 01:56:51 Are the schools being given support on how this picture can be achieved

- 01:56:52 Priority should be given to S4-6 pupils who are sitting exams next year.
- 01:56:53 How can they possibly take exams with one day per week teaching ?
- 01:56:53 blended learning will not work for seniors when will this be acknowledged
- 01:56:56 I agree if exams are going ahead senior pupils must have more face to face learning
- 01:57:00 can the SQA not cut back the syllabus? Focus on quality not quantity
- 01:57:00 Exams, PE, outdoor education will all have LESS TIME in EDINBURGH, WHY!!!
- 01:57:10 independent sector receiving 5 days of teaching how can those in state sector compare with this?
- 01:57:10 Could exams be delayed to allow more time to catch up?
- 01:57:16 trust teacher professionalism in awarding for 2021 again please
- 01:57:19 how can exams take place if some kids have full time education and others have minimal contact. This is a gamble with our childrens future
- 01:57:20 It will be interesting to see the difference between private and state schools in the next exam diet... The gap widens again...
- 01:57:30 Give priority to S4-S6 children to give them the best chance for exams and attaining their potential
- 01:57:33 Teachers record pupil attainment throughout the year anyway but how, when there is no consistency across the country in terms of provision, can all children be measured using the same standard?
- 01:57:37 I hope my S1 kid wont be learning how to make a metal shoe horn or bake a quiche when i'd rather the class time was spent on maths and English, he can do PE outside school as well. Please prioritise the core subjects!
- 01:57:40 Delay prelims and exams by 3 months to let them catch up.
- 01:57:50 Jenny Simpson: Attainment for all /reducing education inequity. Surely now is the perfect time to "nationalise" the education system and prescribe the curriculum in both content and quality of learning through online content.
- 01:57:55 the unit Assesments were well below exam level. Their removal was the correct decision.
- 01:57:59 Exams on continuous assessment - will that be down to local authorities as well?
- 01:58:01 I suspect all LA's will be the same as Edinburgh they just haven't announced It yet
- 01:58:01 Externally assessed and marked exams ensures integrity and quality that cannot be achieved by continuous assessment

- 01:58:02 Focus on the senior phase - what happens to the S1-S3 kids are they being hung out to dry with the focus on the exams??????
- 01:58:04 Exams results have their pass mark reduced if pupils across the board get a lower grade so the marks will be similar to normal (eg if a pass is normally 60% pass mark may reduce to 50%)
- 01:58:05 reduce school holidays to allow them to catch up
- 01:58:10 Why does society not care about ASN children. How can one had they speak about attainment and equality but then ignore ASN.
- 01:58:12 can the SQA not cut back the syllabus? Focus on quality not quantity...agreed!
- 01:58:13 It's pretty clear that they don't want to know how many parents want schools to open full-time in August!
- 01:58:14 Glasgow City council have made a mockery of their plans and i for one will not be sending my son back for 2.5 hrs per day 5 days per week as it's pointless & laughable. what happened to the plan of kids being in school 2/3 full days and home learning for the rest of the week
- 01:58:22 Continuous assessment is a backward step
- 01:58:22 Can we cut out some of the "in-service" days in 2020/2021. More valuable teaching days lost.
- 01:58:24 need to focus on all parts of schooling not just the Senior phase.....
- 01:58:25 priority time to senior phase pupils. How can universities etc know youngsters are up to the mark for courses they are applying for if they have no concrete evidence.
- 01:58:31 I think they should at least discuss repeating years and delaying start
- 01:58:33 There is a two tier system - my very able children will be fine but my less able children will not. Equity?
- 01:58:45 teachers have worked throughtout this. They fully deserve the holidays that are part of their contract.
- 01:58:48 it'll be interesting to see the gap in this year's exams! I predict that private schools will talk-up their pupils' grades. The SQA involvement is a huge worry too.
- 01:58:53 we need EQUITY
- 01:58:54 why is there no representative on Education recovery group from further and higher education to help support the planning for exams /no exams next year?
- 01:58:55 Yes get that debate happening now so resolutions can be found before August to address the question exam v's increasing continuous assessment. No point waiting until easter next year to decide exams won't go ahead and that years work will be used to set exam results as happened this year.

- 01:58:57      Employment options not looking great for those indeed leaving education
- 01:59:02      we've had new term dates to accommodate extra hols next year for school staff. Nightmare for other working parents to have extra hols to arrange childcare for!
- 01:59:37      I think I'll be relying on scientific evidence to decide if I send my kids back to school during a pandemic rather than basing it on a poll taken here by a bunch of people with opinions. I'd rather deal with facts thanks.
- 01:59:38      It seems that you are prioritising the demands of unions over the needs of parents and children.
- 01:59:39      why don't you reduce school holidays surely this may be more productive for attendance and will surely help parents over and above?
- 01:59:54      no one is hanging the s1-3 out to dry - I have and s1 but S4-6 in exam years ARE a PRIORITY
- 01:59:57      We need to ask about the increased volume of children who will be entitled to use the hub - who will man these and will these kids actually end up getting more 'classroom learning' than others?
- 01:59:58      We should be discussing HOW the Scottish Government are planning to get kids back to school full-time in August!
- 01:59:59      will educational provision be extended for key worker children?
- 02:00:02      yes they do need holidays however not as many reduce Easter and Christmas holidays
- 02:00:03      Help for working parents who can't home school?
- 02:00:04      So many kids from Disadvantaged homes and homes where parents don't speak English/have literacy issues have fallen far behind during lockdown. How will those taking exams over the next 1-3 years catch up, if they are going to school part time and still will not have sufficient support.
- 02:00:05      Please commit to every child having at least 50% face-to-face time with teachers.
- 02:00:13      Full time IS NOT SAFE!
- 02:00:15      and what is the plan for people who aren't entitled to the hub but need to work?!
- 02:00:16      Please ask re childcare for the days kids are not in school and parents are back at work. This is a great source of anxiety
- 02:00:16      Will there be a way for parents to raise concerns about individual school provision where it falls below the standards outlined by the Scottish Government - a bit like the phone line set up to report PPE concerns?



02:00:17 If clubs and DoE etc start back, this negates the use of 2m social distancing and the social bubbles therefore a strong argument to return to school as normal as possible!

02:00:21 what are keyworkers to do with their children if schools are only having them 2 reduced days a week?

02:00:28 I acknowledge teachers have been working but what about parents who are doing two jobs - their regular job and teaching their children. We never get a break. I thought teachers went into the job to help children not just for the holidays.....

02:00:35 reduce school holidays - no-one else gets this amount of time off

02:00:38 who is going to teacher your children in the holidays? Teachers have worked hard and fully deserve their holidays that are part of their contract.

02:00:39 Teachers are due holidays. it's in their contract. Also my children have been working throughout past 3 months they need a holiday too!

02:00:47 good point about getting third sector involved - much of the activities are free and kids need the social interaction

02:00:56 While we are not getting full answers, at least we are having contact with our government - which is better than other areas of the UK. A lot will change (hopefully for the better) between now and August. Hopefully more answers over the summer.

02:00:58 Full time is perfectly safe it should be up to me the parent to judge that

02:00:58 what plans are there for a nation wide virtual school staffed by the leading teachers/experts in their specialism?

02:01:07 I acknowledge teachers have been working but what about parents who are doing two jobs - their regular job and teaching their children. We never get a break. I thought teachers went into the job to help children not just for the holidays.....

02:01:11 how do the SG expect blended learning to work when both parents work full time? what are the expectations on the parents - annual leave? unpaid leave? paid time off??

02:01:21 I do not want my children taught virtually!

02:01:22 Will university admissions take account of how much face to face contact pupils had?

02:01:28 Please consider Head Teacher Wellbeing - their ability to support all children and families is key, they are being expected to perform miracles without council support. Our HT is fab and doing her very best but hasn't had any time off for months and is very unlikely to have a summer holiday with all of the additional work she will have to do. She is vital to our school community and we want to protect her

02:01:31 Our household has two category 1 NHS Keyworkers and 3 children aged 9, 6 and 2. our 6 year old has severe combined ADHD. As we are in Highland, pre COVID, the ASN support was minimal to non-existent. Keyworker provision so far neglected our ASN child. We have been juggling

childcare, home learning and work throughout. What we need now is some certainty to work toward -a deadline by which (pre summer holidays) we might know what our children will be doing in August -days and times. That there will be an increase in ASN support to help less able children navigate the new school routine and to compensate for the greater difficulty they will have with blended learning (mindful that many children with ASN are intelligent and academically able with the right support). And we need to know we have the protection of the SG when it comes to negotiating our working lives with our employers. Or will women be resigning en masse?

02:01:31 Young people finishing FAs this year received a Letter of Recognition because they were unable to complete the practical work based learning aspect - if I was a parent of a young person in this situation I would not be happy. I certainly would be cautious allowing my son or daughter to start an FA on a one year framework for this reason.

02:01:32 Full time education is safe according to many European and other governments, so why not in Scotland which has many rural schools?

02:01:46 voluntary organisations are not a priority at the minute for our kids. Anxiety is re childcare and wraparound care not clubs for kids to attend at the minute

02:01:49 how will blended learning work with working parents?

02:01:57 Should our schools consult parents to ensure support is in place to enable a blended learning experience to take place? and help address difficulties where this arises. Lots of solutions but no one asking parents what their challenges are

02:01:58 no one wants to hang out S1 to S3 to dry but those sitting exams will be disadvantaged and so they need to look at how they can achieve more face to face learning without taking this away from S1 to S3

02:02:05 Teachers are parents too they are home schooling AND looking after 30 other children... including yours!

02:02:10 I've been told that practical subjects will not be able to operate as normal due to not being able to share equipment eg CDT etc

02:02:14 expressive arts subjects are key for mental and emotional well-being

02:02:20 I don't know a single teacher who does the job for the (unpaid) holidays. Teachers have also done 2 jobs - their job and home-schooling their own children.

02:02:38 Do children not have a right to full time education?

02:02:42 I work at D and A College and I won't be able to work in the college with the senior phase as i will be at home, home schooling a 7 year old and a ASN nursery aged child.

02:02:43 50% of any subject will make them feel cheated. It will impact their motivation.

02:02:51 specific health and safety advice for managing resources in practical subjects please???

02:02:51 All parents have done 2 jobs - their own jobs and home schooling

- 02:02:58 How are people going to work over the holidays with holiday clubs, sports centres, dance schools, summer camps etc. all closed?
- 02:03:00 We need to hear more from young people.
- 02:03:08 My schools only planning 1 day a week due to 2m rule.
- 02:03:12 Can I ask who is going look after the teachers kids while we are in school during our holidays, we are paid through the year they is not a bonus. I am desperate for my holidays remember some teachers and parents too.
- 02:03:16 how are we going to get out of this, back to full time and away from SD? what if there is no vaccine for the foreseeable future/ever and Coronavirus is something we will have to live with on an ongoing basis, what are specific triggers for getting 'back to normal' (not new normal)?
- 02:03:20 Our Council in East Lothian is making nature & health and well-being a priority for when children go back for all their schools,
- 02:03:29 educational provision for key worker children???
- 02:03:32 does anyone know the legal rights of children in relation to education?
- 02:03:36 YES to return in August full time
- 02:03:37 should blended learning be the last resort, not the main plan? SG should plan for a full time return to school in a safe manner
- 02:03:40 I am sick of having to deal with the lack of care and consideration given to people with Autism
- 02:03:47 Do not allow the 1400 Covid-19 cases to enter the country like at the beginning of this year. Keep the borders closed and our children might get their full-time education. Abroad holidays cancelled is nothing by comparison to the trouble the parents and children will kick up if our children do not get proper education.
- 02:03:49 How do you get the economy back up and running if schools aren't open as normal?
- 02:03:52 not just keyworkers - vast majority are not keyworkers but will still need to be back at work
- 02:04:05 I am a key worker and have supported the NHS as a consultant physician thought the last 3 month. My husband works as a university lecturer and has continued to work full time from home. We do not have access to key worker hub care.
- 02:04:22 Education provision for only 2 parent Keyworkers is an absolute Joke !!
- 02:04:25 have you actually tried working from home and schooling your child at the same time???
- 02:04:25 there are a very high proportion of teachers that are parents! are they able to flexibly work?

- 02:04:30 Working from home and homeschooling is impossible.
- 02:04:31 what if you can't work at home and are not a key worker?
- 02:04:41 by time schools go back even non-key office workers are expected to be back at work
- 02:04:42 Any stats on how many children of frontline workers in the hubs have been ill with Covid-19?
- 02:04:42 working at home is full time working at home. with kids to keep safe. how do we work and home school at the same time??
- 02:04:43 will hubs provide childcare or educational provision?
- 02:04:48 Yes, so many working parents, some of us essential and some not - still need to work! I can't do my job from home, I'm a clinician!
- 02:04:54 Schools have never closed, only school buildings
- 02:04:56 you can't sustainably work from home with young children for months (years?) on end
- 02:04:58 My NHS staff all want to stay at home to home school their kids. We need essential workplaces back.
- 02:04:58 how can you be a key worker and teach from home
- 02:05:06 In August most people won't still be working from home!
- 02:05:09 You cannot work at home and school at home at the same time. IT's impossible. I work and my kids are in the same house - that's all.
- 02:05:11 School buildings have been closed 'schools/teachers' are still working
- 02:05:14 What happens if your child requires 24 hour supervision. You have no resources from the school to keep them busy what do you do?
- 02:05:22 what parents would LIKE is not relevant. Its a global pandemic ffs! Its whats best for our collective health.
- 02:05:25 You are disadvantaging working parents and you will create an unbelievable divide!
- 02:05:28 Children of key workers are disadvantaged
- 02:05:29 stay at home doesn't mean parents have time to educate their child on the side. If that was the case, more parents would home school. We live in a real world.
- 02:05:31 Yes we are working from home, I cannot teach children at home and work at the same time!!

- 02:05:33      What are NHS families to do? Cut their hours = waiting times for appointments through the roof
- 02:05:34      If you are working from home, you are still full time working. How are you supposed to homeschool/care at the same time.
- 02:05:45      Teacher parents can use hubs?
- 02:05:48      work from home when trying to teach my son who has asn which results in violent meltdowns how would you manage this DFM when my husband is a key worker and I am at home alone working with a toddler too who witness's these violent outbursts!!!
- 02:05:52      There is no provision from summer holidays onwards in highland region
- 02:05:54      Many cannot work from home and some are employed outside the devolved government's pathways; for example, military.
- 02:05:56      It's part time education - not "blended learning".
- 02:06:01      My husband works in logistics and I work in non essential retail. My store will most likely be open by Aug. I'm not aware of SG speaking to our employers! Employers may allow reduced hours but they WON'T pay us for that - so continued reduction in our household income!
- 02:06:06      How do you work from home and teach from home at the same time. They are mutually exclusive?
- 02:06:08      Women will ultimately suffer. Job losses. Mostly women. All work previously done on job equality lost.
- 02:06:09      Many employers do not understand - they will lose patience and are - how can I home school and work full time? It is not possible
- 02:06:10      I want to support blended learning, but can't do this working full time. I am a key worker but my partner is not, therefore I am not supported as the expectation is that this falls to my partner. However this is not financially feasible for us or what best supports my child
- 02:06:14      There's no education taking place in the Hubs
- 02:06:19      I face unemployment.
- 02:06:21      We can't home teach our kids and work for our employer from home- we have full-time jobs!! My employer is not flexible.
- 02:06:24      we can't get spaces in hubs now never mind when more parents are back at work
- 02:06:29      S4-S6 do not qualify to attend a hub - they stay at home alone for many hours each day
- 02:06:33      What parents want and what people are prepared to do is ENTIRELY relevant....the lockdown measures only worked because people agreed to do it. So what people are prepared to accept is definitely valuable contribution to the decision making process

02:06:39 I work full-time, from home and can continue to do so. However, this doesn't mean I can educate my children. I will be at my desk, 8 hours a day, mostly on video calls. My children need to be doing the same. Utilise teachers across the country to deliver real time, online lessons, in each subject, to deliver as good an online education as possible

02:06:43 parents need to work in phase 2 so still have to cover childcare for the summer holidays

02:06:45 Essential workers are not sufficiently taking up hubs. The schools make you feel you shouldn't be bothering them

02:06:46 How can employers employ people who can't come to work?

02:06:48 Businesses will be reopened almost fully come August and Employment Law is not devolved to Scotland so the reality is that parents, mainly mothers, will be forced out of work.

02:06:51 My work are not understanding, annual leave or unpaid when no childcare

02:06:53 If schools aren't open fulltime as normal then those going back to work i am sure will possibly start to use grandparents Money doesn't grow on trees and businesses are going to the wall daily

02:06:53 Will flexibility extend to school staff?

02:06:56 You are throwing gender equality back by decades! It will mostly be the female parent who will reduce / stop working!

02:06:58 There isn't even flexibility in the NHS, I'll be expected to work more hours to reduce waiting times not less

02:06:59 we either need paid or we leave our jobs. our children are home schooled or they aren't. we cannot do both

02:07:07 I will lose my job, how can they pay me if I can't go to work?

02:07:12 Employers can't afford to pay for hours not worked when their business has been decimated already by the pandemic!

02:07:20 there is no need to pursue part time education for children check the science

02:07:27 If I was an employer and I was making redundancies, I would choose parents - it's not a protected characteristic to have children, and businesses will have to prioritise people who can actually work

02:07:28 The guidance is still not out for childcare services such as out of school care, how is this going to work with the school plans if they have not been liaised with at the planning stages?

02:07:29 What about the self-employed working from home? We will have to reduce or close our businesses if we have to also teach full-time.

02:07:30 We are employers. NO-ONE has spoken to us. We have kids ourselves and staff who have kids. We are a small business. If we have to pay staff full time not to work as we will go BUST. We are trying to support everyone. I am heartbroken.

02:07:32 One key worker families do not qualify for hub places... therefore all homeworking and schooling down to those able to work at home? Will teachers only be able to access hub spaces if both parents key workers as everyone else?

02:07:32 action should be taken against the employers and not have our children put at risk because some employers decide they are more interested in making money

02:07:32 We have to continue working full time away from home. Will you pay for additional childcare?

02:07:37 It's unrealistic to expect employers to give that level of flexibility. Further economic ruin. Private sector pays for public sector

02:07:38 It's not enough to ask employers to be understanding. Legislation is required from SG level or we will see women being forced to resign.

02:07:38 passing the buck to small businesses. How can they afford to pay a salary to someone who can't come to work because she's home schooling. Sorry 'blended learning'

02:07:39 NHS will have to reduce their hours.

02:07:41 The most ridiculous thing here is we are planning for August based on information in June. By August the world will be a different place. So will schools be behind the curve or is all this planning and stress pointless as everything changes by the time we are ready to implement

02:07:45 What support are you giving business to continue to employ people who aren't working then? Small businesses cannot afford to pay people who aren't currently working.

02:08:01 You can remedy the situation for employers by letting our children all return to school full time in August. 2020!

02:08:01 Employers will be flexible I suspect were they can... but fact is if employees cannot work the hours they did, can a business afford to keep them on? Plus if you are able to work from home... you are supposed to be 'working' which means your not helping your children with home learning.

02:08:03 Employers are facing a crisis of their own to ensure survival of their business. Many understand the issues of working parents, and are indeed working parents themselves, but essentially if they need someone to do a job and that person cannot due to childcare then the business won't have much choice but to find someone who can.

02:08:04 My son requires 1 to 1 in school. With social work this goes up to 2 to 1. If he goes into meltdown it takes two of us to try and tackle that. How are we both meant to work and deal with that

02:08:07 My job operates within office hours. How do I manage that when I cannot work at home and school a 5 and 7 year old at the same time

- 02:08:08                    How can the economy get moving if people can't work because they don't have childcare?
- 02:08:12                    What are the childcare provisions for people who cannot work from home?
- 02:08:15                    We are bullied by the system we have complex needs children who need to be taught consistently we parents are not teachers and do not have the expertise to be working from home, childminder to numerous children, carer, cleaner & provider
- 02:08:23                    How long is the blended learning likely to be?
- 02:08:26                    Are LA taking into account childcare issues for their teachers?
- 02:08:29                    As both an employer and a parent I genuinely want to understand what you expect employers to do, assuming that the job cannot be done from home?
- 02:08:29                    How can he expect people to work and home school children, in Edinburgh, 4 days per week???
- 02:08:32                    What about the many self-employed people being expected to home-school? If we don't work we don't get paid.
- 02:08:38                    Needs national advice and guidance not left to people to negotiate individually with employers as this is national issue
- 02:08:41                    shops will be opening more soon - how do they work from home?
- 02:08:51                    Many YP from S4, S5 and S6 leaving education with absolutely NO job prospects. Suicides are high already in young males
- 02:08:51                    what is contingency plan if very few to no Covid deaths for weeks on end before 11 Aug? return date is 2 months away
- 02:08:51                    I don't feel like a part of society. Society has no care for my son and our situation
- 02:09:03                    What about childcare for children when they are not at school? how can out of school clubs and other childcare establishments be involved in this?
- 02:09:06                    What is contingency plan if very few to no Covid deaths for weeks on end before 11 Aug? return date is 2 months away
- 02:09:11                    How will children attending hubs be supported to learn? Are they expected to do their work at night?
- 02:09:11                    Not just women, key workers are penalised here as expectation falls to partner. Would be better supported at work if I was a single parent
- 02:09:14                    Please 50% schooling
- 02:09:14                    Small businesses cannot cope with this strategy. Eventually they will make redundancies - or even worse, go bankrupt, and workers won't even be paid off.



- 02:09:16      need someone to lead return to school that is independent from SG
- 02:09:28      Sounds as though working parents have not been considered at all!!
- 02:09:31      As other people have said I can work from home but I cannot at the same time make sure my children are filling in their dreary worksheets.
- 02:09:42      What about university staff?
- 02:09:45      What about university lecturers?
- 02:09:46      Is there going to be regular testing of teachers
- 02:09:53      PISA results in Maths and Science are dropping while Reading results have increased slightly. Scottish Education, once the envy of the world, is failing our young people. The Scottish Government must take the responsibility for this and redouble their efforts to provide a satisfactory world education for today and beyond, otherwise our economy will fail and you will be out of a job.
- 02:10:01      Please redefine key worker status.
- 02:10:09      Keyworker here, offered keyworker provision but no ASN support so we couldn't use it.
- 02:10:09      I am the only woman on my team & my job will be dependant on my children to returning to school full-time. . . . . why would my employer pay me to teach my children at home whilst he has many other staff that don't have this distraction. Will the Government protect me on this legally??
- 02:10:09      everyone is a key worker the problem going forward is for all working parents not just key workers
- 02:10:10      What about my son who has been kicked out of school with no transition package - should I resign from my teaching post?
- 02:10:10      And will this childcare do home learning? Or are parents expected to do this before bedtime?
- 02:10:11      my industry was classed as key worker but my local authority don't class them as key worker
- 02:10:15      There will be so many more key workers now tho so who is going to look after those kids?!
- 02:10:18      if there is no childcare support many people will not be able to go work.
- 02:10:19      Will PSWs and other support staff also have keyworker status?
- 02:10:20      I am extremely concerned of the amount of use of 'educational games' from my kids school that is being passed off as lessons. I expect more from professionals.

- 02:10:21      What about key worker children who will miss out whilst in childcare hubs and not getting the other half of the blended learning plan?
- 02:10:22      if one parent is a keyworker you should be able to access childcare hub
- 02:10:24      This is why we need to seriously consider a Universal Basic Income, so that parents don't have these financial worries. The Scottish Government is willing, but Westminster won't consider, and won't transfer powers.
- 02:10:26      Is the key worker list being looked at - are all school staff not going to be key workers?
- 02:10:29      Colleges/University's, are they opening as normal
- 02:10:32      local authorities pick and choose who are key workers
- 02:10:35      how about people who generate employment? I cut my hours, I have to cut my team as wont have enough work for all staff
- 02:10:40      teachers absolutely do not have key worker status...no places available in hub for teachers children
- 02:10:46      yet hubs are childcare only, not educational provision
- 02:10:46      is key workers a local authority decision?
- 02:10:47      teachers children will lose out on education due to having to attend hubs 3 days a week
- 02:10:53      We need a commitment to 50% education
- 02:10:55      There is a huge economic issue here. Whereby people can work from home is fine, but working from home while also assisting children with their blended learning is becoming increasingly stressful for both children and parent and teacher who is inevitably getting the brunt of concerns / worries. For those who cannot work from home, how are they meant to pay for childcare when potentially all their wage is going to go on that as opposed to bills / food / clothing etc?
- 02:11:09      What about secondary children? No hubs for them? Expected to stay home alone?
- 02:11:17      You need to ask re wraparound care for the days the kids will be in school - another challenge for parents
- 02:11:17      the keyworker situation still doesn't help. if one parent is a keyworker, school responsibilities are passed to the other parent. when the other parent is the key breadwinner, then families will be affected financially
- 02:11:17      Teachers are key workers in our authority
- 02:11:22      there is not home schooling in child care hubs - which means working parents have even more to do to do the home schooling in their short weekend off!

- 02:11:31 Why are public schools delivering an entirely different level of service? Straightforward Zoom/video lessons delivered rather than multiple online links which are impossible to follow?
- 02:11:32 it's not just teachers children please...all key workers
- 02:11:47 key workers will have to teach at night
- 02:11:49 Can student teachers deliver virtual lessons for kids at home whilst their teachers are teaching in school?
- 02:11:51 Glasgow City council have made a mockery of their plans and I for one will not be sending my son back for 2.5 hrs per day 5 days per week as it's pointless & laughable. What happened to the plan of kids being in school 2/3 full days and home learning for the rest of the week
- 02:11:56 Where is the logic of children in hubs but not in school?
- 02:11:59 If a hub is for learning, isn't that a school?
- 02:12:00 hubs must extend to educational provision come August to prevent detriment to children attending hubs
- 02:12:03 not all key workers - all people who have to work / cannot be furloughed
- 02:12:14 The hub is not teaching - it provides access to resources but it is just childcare. Can't expect it to be teaching
- 02:12:15 when are you going to gather the views of all pupils and parents on their experiences of school closures?
- 02:12:20 If children are in hubs why not in school!
- 02:12:22 key worker support has been appalling. I'm a one parent key worker, one not and gone through council and Scottish government
- 02:12:24 Glasgow City council have made a mockery of their plans and I for one will not be sending my son back for 2.5 hrs per day 5 days per week as it's pointless & laughable. What happened to the plan of kids being in school 2/3 full days and home learning for the rest of the week
- 02:12:25 If businesses can pull out all the stops to provide necessary cleaning between shifts in a factory, say, why cannot we pull out all the stops to get the children back to school?
- 02:12:28 Hub is not suitable for my child, too much to have 2 different settings when you are autistic.
- 02:12:32 difference in access to hubs etc between local authorities. For some both parents have to be key workers for others if one parent is a key worker
- 02:12:33 our hub is purely a babysitting group

- 02:12:41 if teachers are key workers why have they not been using the hubs. reasons given for not providing work and feedback for children are their own childcare issues.
- 02:12:46 does that mean that key worker children get additional education
- 02:13:03 parental engagement needs school support!
- 02:13:14 JS stated to the press that schools were unlikely to return to normality for duration of academic year. Can this be confirmed and what are the reasons behind this statement?
- 02:13:19 Are hub places available for 1 keyworker in the family or must there be 2?
- 02:13:20 Good parental engagement - except on this issue
- 02:13:23 Think the Scottish government need to set up a number of working parties to address some very important key areas/issues instead of generic ideals which are non enforceable
- 02:13:28 Hubs are not staffed by qualified teachers. Teachers are needed in schools and with a 50% max population they can't be in hubs at the same time.
- 02:13:34 We'll be forced to use the hubs, to work full time and our kids will be even worse off
- 02:13:39 CEC haven't consulted parents at all or their PCs. We need to see parental engagement in action
- 02:13:40 staff and children/parents who want to opt out of return could do home learning/teaching. I'm sure many teachers wouldn't feel 'unsafe' returning to 'back to normal' in Aug. we need to ask the question of parents and teachers.
- 02:13:43 Please commit to 50% face to face learning for all Scottish pupils
- 02:13:43 East Ren have said hubs are only available if both parents are key workers and all other options have been exhausted
- 02:13:54 key worker provision is only for families where both parents are key workers, or single parent key workers. I'm a one parent key worker family and gone through Edinburgh council and Scottish Government and got no help.
- 02:14:01 Parents have not been engaged in the discussions with schools about how children should return. Many parents have project management skills and could be used in this situation, why are parents views not being sought?
- 02:14:24 working parents will have kids that are penalized and will miss out on home learning
- 02:14:33 Parents ARE doing the Schools' job. Start teaching properly! Do you want me to do the job for you?
- 02:14:41 Can parents be treated like grown ups and assess the risk for our own kids returning to school??

02:14:49        Keyworkers have done a fantastic job for Scotland so far but the issue has now broadened out to everyone. Anyone who has a job will now be concerned that these proposals will not only impact their childrens education but also their own employment

02:14:51        You need to poll opinion on full opening of schools from August! This should have been at the beginning. Public health decisions affecting schools have wider impact on emotional wellbeing, general health and economy.

02:15:11        have you taken ASN into consideration in this and the difficulties that this brings?

02:15:55        Hubs in my experience are absolutely staffed by qualified teachers -another disparity between authorities

02:15:56        Its not as simple as individual parents assessing the need for their own family it affects the teachers and support staff aswell. Schools will have to have done risk assessments to keep people safe just like workplaces.

02:16:03        Virtual parent council meetings are happening in highland schools but headteachers are still waiting for staff allocation and access to their funds so are unable to confirm their preferred options for august. we need clarity and leadership from SG to ensure L A provides consistent approach for everyone

02:16:05        The sooner the schools are back to normal capacity the better. I'm a single parent who is working 40 hours per week at home and trying to home school. I can say honestly, it's almost non existent these days now

02:16:08        Do the Scottish Government want to make part time education a permanent model?

02:16:10        What scientific advice are the Scottish Government following???

02:16:12        Mandatory engagement for schools/parent councils and local authorities with parents would help this

02:16:12        Share with us your scientific advice, please

02:16:13        How do you put arrangements in place if you can't afford childcare and can't send your child to vulnerable grandparents!!!!

02:16:16        why should I be confident that you personally assessing the risk and being okay with it for your kids is going to be okay for mine? Every parent can't act as an arbitrary Health and Safety Executive for all!

02:16:16        not everyone can work from home

02:16:19        why is the Scottish scientific advice different from the rest of Europe?

02:16:20        show us the scientific advice make it PUBLIC!!!

02:16:21        what about kids awaiting tribunal results when courts are closed?

02:16:25        what is the scientific advice please???

- 02:16:32 So hubs and schools will provide childcare in the summer for non key workers Mr Swinney?
- 02:16:34 50% please for all pupils
- 02:16:38 education provision over the summer holidays would be helpful (even if just learning packs) it gives our children focus at these difficult times
- 02:16:45 the scientific advice is kids are less likely to catch/ spread COVID if teachers etc take precautions which is being advised all the time why is full time return an issue
- 02:16:51 Rather than name and shame highlight good practice!
- 02:17:08 Could you publish that 'scientific advice' you are talking about Mr Swinney? The evidence is that children are not super spreaders. The risks are low. Your response is disproportionate.
- 02:17:25 I'm a parent at East Lothian and they are doing well.
- 02:17:28 Children need a break during the summer....they have been under a great deal of stress...more work during a holiday is not the answer
- 02:17:37 home working and home schooling children is impossible it is not a way forward
- 02:17:52 basic information, facts and assurances are what we need
- 02:17:58 No need to name and shame, but you could ask about LAs providing less than 50%
- 02:17:59 Parents in our local authority did not know about the recovery group so no views from us.
- 02:18:00 I do appreciate Mr Swinney taking the time to do this chat, but feel that he really hasn't answered the majority of the questions that have been posed - he does need to read these and take on board parent's concerns about this.
- 02:18:04 Will there be no proper school until the R rate is at zero ? Because that what it looks like.....
- 02:18:08 will LAs communicate school attendance models BEFORE summer?
- 02:18:10 I've really appreciated having this direct access to the Education Secretary. Didn't expect him to have every answer but have appreciated his time and his responses.
- 02:18:18 John, thank you for all you are doing. We know you care. But there is a lack of clarity and consistency and SG needs to get a grip on the situation.
- 02:18:22 Your Government is failing! Teaching has been very, very patchy and
- 02:18:55 Quite simply this cannot work. Employers will not tolerate employees not able to work to pick up teaching and childcare requirements. Employers need their staff to do a job. Why should they continue to pay their staff for the these shortfalls that have not been thought out. The

furlough scheme is now closed to new entrants, and the government now put this pressure on families. I worry for the children too

02:19:24      please Mr Swinney do not give into the demands of full time school before it is safe!

02:19:29      How can people arrange flexible working if there is nothing set in concrete for August?

02:20:10      I don't disagree with the principles behind JS's responses, but the problem is the lack of substance behind those principles. Where is the SG guidance to LAs on how parents should be supported through the summer holidays, the guidance to employers to ensure parents (and women in particular) are not disadvantaged at work.

02:21:14      Could the SG please rethink the notion that ASN support should not be \*reduced\* and acknowledge that this is a time, by its very nature, that it must be increased.

