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To all registered childcare providers and childminders

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to inform you of a short update to the suite of Coronavirus guidance for the childcare sector. The change relates specifically to children transitioning to primary school.

Colleagues may be aware that the guidance for schools was amended recently to allow children from Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) settings to visit primary schools to help facilitate smooth transitions into primary school. Changes to the ELC guidance now allows primary school teachers and senior school staff to visit ELC settings as part of that transitioning process.

This amendment is based on the latest advice from Scotland's [COVID-19 Education Recovery Group \(CERG\)](#) and the [Coronavirus \(COVID 19\) Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues](#). They emphasised the importance of enabling visits for children to familiarise themselves with their school environment and likewise, for school teachers and staff to visit ELC settings for the purpose of supporting positive transition experiences for children entering primary 1. We know this can be especially important for children with additional support needs.

As the guidance makes clear, any such visits to ELC settings must be risk-assessed and ensure that the appropriate mitigations are put in place. Visits should not take place if there is an outbreak in the ELC setting. The suite of updated guidance documents can be found here:

- [Early Learning & Childcare:](#)
- [Childminders:](#)
- [School Age Childcare:](#)

At this time we are not proposing any further changes to the ELC guidance. However, as the First Minister has said the situation now is much more positive than it was at the turn of the year. Over the next few weeks we will therefore be working closely with public health advisors and the sector to look at options to streamline our guidance and take further steps to ease the existing restrictions for settings safely. We will communicate any changes to you at the earliest possible opportunity.



I would like once again to thank you for everything that you are doing for children and families at this time.



**ELEANOR PASSMORE**  
Deputy Director, Early Learning & Childcare

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