

# The Midlothian Promise

## **Midlothian Council Principles: The Midlothian Promise.**

Principles are necessary to provide consistency across our local authority and provide a clear and transparent basis for schools to make their local, school by school, decisions on implementation.

It is recognised that within the principles of the 'Midlothian Promise, outlined below, all schools are not the same. Local school by school differences in approaches are inevitable given the public health measures and restrictions that apply to all sectors of public life.

These principles will be reviewed as we move through the four identified phases of recovery

## **The 'Midlothian Promise'**

1. All Midlothian schools will prioritise the safety of children and young people, staff and parents/carers as we plan and implement school recovery
2. All Midlothian schools, for session 2020/21, will adopt a common values base to support consistent decision making at a local/school level; Safe, Fair, Ethical, Clear and Realistic
3. All Midlothian schools will base approaches to the Health and Well Being of children, young people and staff on Building Resilience and Nurture
4. All Midlothian schools will apply a consistent social distancing and cleaning/hygiene plan, including PPE as appropriate
5. All Midlothian schools and ELC settings will adopt a 'maximalist' approach; with as many children and young people as possible returning to ELC and school as soon as it is safe
6. All Midlothian schools will establish and maintain clear communication channels to inform, and build confidence in, all our children and young people, staff and parents/carers
7. From Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020 almost all Midlothian children and young people will experience a 'blended approach' to support their learning; this means time in school and time at home following e-learning programmes
8. All school-age Midlothian children and young people can request access to a 'device' and support to facilitate blended learning
9. All Midlothian schools will prioritise in-school learning for those with the greatest need; ie ASN, vulnerable families, young people's achievement and attainment that is likely to be affected by equity issues (in effect the GIRFEC resilience matrix)
10. All Midlothian schools will follow our key principles as outlined within the blended learning guidance to ensure where possible a consistent experience for Midlothian students

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11. All Midlothian secondary schools will collaborate on planning and implementation of approaches to 'blended learning' in the Senior Phase to ensure where possible a consistent experience for Midlothian students; this will allow each school to achieve a robust evidence base for assessment and certification
12. Each school will develop their own data informed blended learning rationale and implementation plan, to cover August to December 2020, that reflects the above principles and best meets the needs of their children and young people in their local school context