

On 13/04/2016 18:15, Elaine Aitken wrote:

## **OVER 4,400 PUPILS HAVE SCHOOL ARRANGEMENTS IN PLACE**

The majority of the pupils affected by school closures have now been allocated new school places by the City of Edinburgh Council.

Arrangements made today (Wednesday 13 April) now mean that over 4,400 pupils have alternative education provision in place. These include:

S1, S2 and S3 pupils from Drummond Community High School will join their senior pupils back at the school tomorrow ([14 April](#)). This means all Drummond pupils are now back in their school.

S3 pupils at both Firrhill High and Royal High Schools will return to their schools tomorrow ([14 April](#)) and join senior year pupils.

Craigour Park Primary pupils will be going to various other primary schools from [Friday \(15 April\)](#).

All Craigroyston Primary pupils will now be going to Craigroyston High School on Friday.

Rowanfield Special School pupils will be based at the Pilton Youth & Children's Project tomorrow and Friday. Details for next week will be confirmed as soon as possible. In addition plans have been put in place for Rowanfield pupils to have a full day of outings tomorrow ([Thursday 14 April](#)) thanks to offers from various Edinburgh organisations. They will be visiting Edinburgh Castle and Dynamic Earth in addition to a trip to the National Museum of Edinburgh.

Craig Fletcher, Senior Learning Manager at Historic Environment Scotland, who run Edinburgh Castle, said: "We were recently approached by Rowanfield to ask if we could accommodate a visit to the Castle for their pupils. We normally require 10 days notice but due to the exceptional circumstances our bookings team were able to accommodate them at short notice. We are happy to welcome them and hope they have an enjoyable time exploring this iconic place."

Braidburn pupils will be relocating to several locations from [Friday \(15 April\)](#). Staff will be contacting parents directly to update them on the arrangements for their own individual child. Transport arrangements are being put in place that will allow children to be taken directly from their homes to their host schools.

Further information on nursery pupils from Craigroyston Primary will be put on the Council website and the Council is hoping to have arrangements for nursery pupils at Castlevue Primary in place from Tuesday.

In the past three days the Council has now put in place alternative arrangements for the majority of pupils, with all the arrangements for the schools having been communicated to

parents directly and are available on the [Council website](#).

Work is ongoing to identify alternative arrangements for the remaining pupils. The Council anticipates all affected primary and special school pupils will be allocated new school places by [Tuesday \(19 April\)](#) next week as Monday is a Spring Bank Holiday.

Positive discussions have been taking place with the Scottish Qualifications Authority who have agreed that verification and examining visits for all subjects that were due to take place this week will be rescheduled with individual schools.

SQA continues to work with the five schools to provide advice and support, if they require any additional resources. All pupils taking exams will be in their schools with their teachers by tomorrow.

Council Leader Andrew Burns said: "Having rightly prioritised arrangements for those children taking examinations in the coming weeks, the two special schools were next to be addressed and I'm pleased that these are now in place. I want to pay credit to the Chief Executive and his team for their work since Friday on what has been a huge logistical challenge for the Council.

"We have now put in place alternative education arrangements for the majority of pupils, and work continues to identify alternative options for other primary and S1 to S3 pupils. We will communicate to parents as soon as we have further information.

"I fully recognise the significant inconvenience to parents caused by these closures and I want to thank them for their patience as we continue to work through this issue. I'm sure they understand the steps we have taken to ensure the safety of their children.

"The SQA have been very supportive to our situation and I must thank them for the steps they have taken regarding verification and examining visits and help with additional resources.

"I also want to pay tribute again to the response from the organisations, both public and private sector, who have come forward with offers of help and accommodation - most recently Historic Environment Scotland who have today agreed to give a tour of Edinburgh Castle for the children of Rowanfield Special School."

The programme of structural surveys arranged by the Edinburgh Schools Partnership is continuing this week.

The Council will update parents directly, via text message, the [Council website](#)([www.edinburgh.gov.uk/schoolclosures](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/schoolclosures)) and via the Council Twitter @Edinburgh\_CC as soon as information becomes available.

Regards,

Elaine.

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