



1 April 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

### Pupil Welfare Facilities

Over the last two years, schools across Scotland have made significant adjustments in how to make best use of their buildings, and school estates, to ensure COVID-19 mitigations are met. At Baldragon Academy, we are no different. Indeed, COVID arrived just as we were becoming familiar with our new building and beginning to make the best use of everything our new build has to offer. Indeed, we are very lucky to have the resource and space for delivering creative learning experiences. However, I am acutely aware we have some aspects that require very careful management and the co-operation of every member of our school community to ensure that we all have a clean, safe, and hygienic space to learn and work.

As a [UNICEF Rights Respecting School](#) we promote that water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) are a basic human right. From my weekly 'listening to learner's' sessions, school toilet issues are often raised. Based on my own observations, and feedback from school staff, the combination of having an open plan building with open plan welfare facilities creates challenges that, with the easing of COVID mitigations, we can easily resolve.

Therefore, from the start of the new term 4, we are planning to rotate access to the three main open plan pupil welfare facilities (playground side entrance/exit; music corridor; 1<sup>st</sup> floor). This is to ensure that all our pupils have access to the most appropriate welfare facilities at the most appropriate time of the day.

In practice, this means that during break and lunch times, the pupil welfare facilities located at the playground side entrance/exit will be open for use, with the music corridor and 1<sup>st</sup> floor pupil welfare facilities closed. Then, during curriculum times this will be reversed with the side entrance/exit pupil welfare facilities closed and the 1<sup>st</sup> floor and music corridor pupil welfare facilities reopened at alternative times throughout the school day. This approach will help ensure a better provision of toilet cleaning and maintenance for pupil health and hygiene and will help improve pupil movement around our school building.

Please be assured, these changes do not affect the other pupil welfare facilities that are located on each floor or the disabled access toilets located on each level and throughout our school building, all of which remain accessible for all pupils throughout the school day. I also want to reassure you that pupil welfare facilities remain accessible at the beginning and end of each day on all levels and throughout the school building. Furthermore, if your child has a medical condition that impacts on toileting, then please contact our school office who will ensure that your child's medical record is up to date.

Moving forward, I'd like to work with our learning community by holding a short life focus group (one for pupils, one for parents) with the aim to establish a school building welfare facilities plan. This would include a guided tour of our welfare facilities and to evaluate how our facilities support our inclusive approaches on themes such as LGBT Education and Anti-Bullying. If you wish to be part of the parent group, please leave your details on the MSForm available here: <https://forms.office.com/r/jRs2sYHq6X>. The form will close on 29 April 2022.

Thank you in advance for supporting our school and I do hope you will take up my offer of working with me to help ensure the best use of our school for all.

Yours faithfully,

**Mr H McAninch**  
Headteacher