



EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CARE

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Dear Parent/Carer

Teaching in Moray

You will no doubt be aware from local and national media coverage that there is a severe shortage of teachers in Scottish schools, with rural areas such as Moray particularly badly affected. This Council has put in place a variety of measures and incentives over the past two years to try to solve the problems we are facing, yet we remain unable to attract sufficient numbers of teachers to cover vacancies. The situation in Moray is not as bad as in some areas, but it is certainly not improving and there are real risks to service continuity and for certain specialist subjects in secondary, alternative arrangements such as offering twilight courses in a central location may have to be considered. Indeed, in certain schools it may not be possible to offer some subjects at all. Of course, not all schools will have major staffing difficulties and your own child's Head Teacher will keep parents informed of the situation in individual schools if appropriate and where there are specific issues in terms of recruitment, Head Teachers will also keep parents informed of any contingencies in place.

As an education authority we remain fully committed to attracting as many people to come and work in our schools in Moray. To that end, if you know of anyone with a teaching qualification and registered with or eligible for registration with the General Teaching Council for Scotland, then I would ask you to encourage them to make contact with the Education and Social Care Business Support Team at the Moray Council (educationandsocialcare@moray.gov.uk or 01343 563374). Similarly, if you, or anyone you know has an undergraduate degree and is interested in a career in teaching and would like to talk about potential routes into the profession and how we can provide support, then again please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. We will be only too happy to help and advise in any way we can.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that Head Teachers and teachers in our schools are doing all they can to ensure the continuity of education at this time of staff shortage and they will continue to keep parents advised of the position in your own local school.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laurence Findlay', with a horizontal line underneath.

Laurence Findlay
Corporate Director (Education and Social Care)