Ratho Primary School & Ratho Community Centre

Head Teacher, Peter Gibb &
Community Centre Management Chair, Barbara Reid

4th June 2021

Dear Ratho Community,

We hope this letter finds you and your families safe and well. Ratho Primary School and Ratho Community Centre wish to issue a joint statement to the wider Ratho Community. We are proud to serve and be part of the Ratho community and we are keen to continue our good relations with the village… Indeed, we want the community to be proud of our school and community centre!

We share a joint campus, both in building and in surrounding land. During the school day, the school and nursery pupils use the grounds and obviously their safety and security is of paramount importance. After school hours, community groups use the shared grounds and there is a common acceptance that the grounds are open to the public. This fantastic facility is an important one for village and the City of Edinburgh Council provide a Facilities Technician to the school during the day, and the community centre in the evenings. On a day-to-day basis this means there is only one person on site at any given time responsible for facilities management.

As a point of clarity; the grounds, including the path from the library at School Wynd to the junction of the path with North Street and the path to Hallcroft, are not adopted by the City of Edinburgh Council as common land, they are Ratho Primary School and Ratho Community Centre grounds.

We have experienced many problems with littering, particularly smashed glass in the car park, grass and wooded areas and also dog fouling within the grounds which have created safety issues for the children. The Community Centre Management Chair and Head Teacher met mid-May and agreed to close the car park gates at the weekend to try to discourage more anti-social behaviours occurring.

Unfortunately, the pedestrian gate was also closed from Friday 28th evening until midday Sunday 30th May. I, Peter Gibb Head Teacher, apologise to anyone in the community who attempted to use the path and found it unexpectedly locked. Going forward, we will close the car park gate at the weekend and any community groups requiring vehicular access at the weekend can then have the gate opened by the Community Centre Management team.

The pedestrian gate shall remain open and we welcome the community, however the grounds remain our responsibility to maintain and therefore we politely request

that anyone using the grounds respect the campus and especially the safety and security of the children.

We are ordering signage to help discourage littering and dog fouling and expect this to be erected within the next few months. Also, in late 2020, following incidents with pupils leaving during school hours and loose dogs entering during the school day, the City of Edinburgh Council agreed to erect a fence from the woodland grounds within the campus to the bin stores. To facilitate community access, there will be a pedestrian access gate installed within the fencing to allow groups to enter/exit. We also expect this to be erected within the next few months.

We hope this information helps clarify the position of Ratho Primary School and Ratho Community Centre regarding the grounds and also our intention to work cooperatively to best serve and achieve great things for our amazing Ratho Community.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Gibb	Barbara Reid
Head Teacher	Community Centre Management Chair