



Special Educational needs and Disability Addendum during COVID 19

Supporting children with EHC plans and SEND in mainstream schools

School has remained open to pupils with EHC plans considering their needs and their risk assessment. During this time if pupil needs could not be met as safely or more safely in school, attendance was 'not appropriate' and some pupils remained at home supported through remote education and other services where possible. Risk assessments consider the potential health risks to the individual from coronavirus, bearing in mind any underlying health conditions/clinical vulnerability, pupil safeguarding, parent/carer views and the impact of home schooling on the household. They are reviewed in line with government guidelines to reflect any changes in circumstances, including changes to coronavirus alert levels and the wider opening of school.

Some children and young people with SEND will need careful preparation for when they return to school, for example, social stories to help with the transition. This could mean attendance for some children and young people is a gradual process and builds up over a longer period e.g. their return may be later than their peers or their return may initially be part-time. Pupils can be brought back into face to face education when the time is right for them.

Pupils with SEND who cannot adhere to strict hygiene practices and who do not understand why they must stay apart or who ignore distancing guidelines

Some young pupils and pupils with special educational needs may not be able to understand the need for social distancing and may seek close interaction with their peers or adults to provide reassurance at a period of disruption to their routines. School will conduct risk assessments for pupils with these issues as above. The government advises limiting the number of children in each group and providing more space in each classroom. It may be impossible to provide the care that some pupils need without close hands-on contact. In these circumstances the government advises staff to minimise close contact wherever possible, increase hand-washing and other hygiene measures, and clean surfaces more regularly. Staff will wear appropriate personal protective equipment for pupils with intimate care needs or if there is a risk of fluids entering the eye from, for example, coughing, spitting, or vomiting.

Supporting for pupils with SEND not in Educational Settings

School continues to work with their local authority and health partners to ensure that services for additional support and early help, for example around anxiety, mental health, behaviour, social care, or changes to mobility will be available as far as possible. School is mindful that these considerations could apply to pupils who they did not previously affect. Similarly, the local authority is working with school to ensure that key support services are available to facilitate transition plans. Pupils and their families are contacted regularly to check in.

Special Education Needs and Disability Code of Practice

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398815/SEND Code of Practice January 2015.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398815/SEND_Code_of_Practice_January_2015.pdf)