



## **Special Educational Needs 2020 Covid-19 Addendum**

Our school aims to be an inclusive school. We actively seek to remove the barriers to learning and participation that can hinder or exclude individual pupils, or groups of pupils. This means that equality of opportunity must be a reality for our children. Every child has an entitlement to the full curriculum and the needs of each individual child are recognised and met using a variety of approaches and differentiated teaching, in partnership with parents and other professionals. It is necessary, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, to make some adjustments to the SEN policy. These adjustments are set out below:

From 1 June, school will continue to offer places to all children with EHC plans whose risk assessment determines that attending school is the right course of action, along with parental agreement.

The SENDCo working alongside the local authority will keep risk assessments for EHCP pupils up-to-date to reflect any changes in circumstances.

The SENDCo, through weekly phone calls will engage proactively with parents and carers to support pupils with an EHCP with their emotional wellbeing, engagement in learning and plans for returning to school when appropriate.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) makes it more difficult for school to provide the specified special educational and health provision in an EHC plan. Possible reasons why this might be more difficult are:

- The child is not currently attending school.
- The following of 'social distancing' guidelines disrupts schools normal 1:1 or small group provision for those who are still attending and make certain interventions impractical.
- The resources to secure the provision are reduced, for example because of illness, self-isolation or the need to direct staff resource at responding to the pressures generated by coronavirus (COVID-19).

Schools will ensure that parents are informed of services for additional support, for example around anxiety, mental health and behaviour.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is limiting the level of service that can be provided by outside agencies (such as educational psychologists, SALT, Specialist Teachers) who provide advice and information for SEN pupils. The SENDCo is liaising with these services and passing advice and guidance onto staff and parents.

School will provide differentiated learning for those SEN pupils attending. It may be difficult for schools to provide the provision on Pupil Profiles/Behaviour support plans/Pastoral Support Plans due to the following reasons:

- The following of 'social distancing' guidelines disrupts schools normal 1:1 or small group provision for those who are still attending and make certain interventions impractical.
- The resources to secure the provision are reduced, for example because of illness, self-isolation or the need to direct staff resource at responding to the pressures generated by coronavirus (COVID-19).

School will endeavour to provide differentiated learning for pupils who are not attending settings full time in person.

On 1 May 2020 some aspects of the law on education, health and care (EHC) needs assessments and plans changed temporarily to give local authorities, health commissioning bodies, education settings and other bodies who contribute to these processes more flexibility in responding to the demands placed on them by coronavirus (COVID-19). For further information and guidance please follow the link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-law-on-education-health-and-care-needs-assessments-and-plans-due-to-coronavirus/education-health-and-care-needs-assessments-and-plans-guidance-on-temporary-legislative-changes-relating-to-coronavirus-covid-19>

The School will continue to monitor Governmental and Local Authority guidance. Changes to provision may need to be effected at short notice, and without further consultation, in managing changing circumstances.