



**MOOR PARK
PRIMARY SCHOOL
AND NURSERY**

**SEND POLICY
COVID-19 ADDENDUM**

March 2021

'Moor Park Primary is a Happy, Caring School Where Everyone Matters'

Policy	SEND policy – Covid-19 addendum
Blackpool Council model policy	None available <i>Blackpool procedures and guidance followed</i>
Reviewed by	Jane Rhodes
Date	February 2021
Approval level	Full Governing Body
Adopted	23/03/2021
Next review due	January 2022

CONTEXT

From 20th March 2020, parents/carers were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, schools to continue to provide care for a limited number of children: those who are vulnerable, children whose parents/carers are critical to the COVID-19 response, who absolutely need to attend, and who cannot be safely cared for at home. 'Vulnerable children' includes those supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs (including those on child protection and child in need plans), children who are 'looked after', and those with Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans. This addendum of the SEND Policy contains details of our individual arrangements and changes to our usual mode of working in the following areas:

- vulnerable children and eligibility
- safeguarding, attendance and monitoring of wellbeing
- arrangements for consulting parents/carers of, and young people with, SEND
- arrangements for assessing and reviewing children's progress
- arrangements for supporting children in moving between phases of education
- transition periods within our school
- the approach to teaching children with SEND
- support for emotional and social development
- working alongside other professionals.

Please note: This addendum should be read in tandem with Moor Park Primary School's COVID-19 Safeguarding Policy addendum.

PURPOSE

This is an addendum to the SEND Policy (inclusive of the SEN Information Report), setting out the arrangements in place to support our children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities during the COVID-19 related partial school or full school closure from 1st September 2020 onwards.

Vulnerable children include those children and young people up to the age of 25 with Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely attend school from September 2020 and will no longer need to remain at home. However, in the event of a partial or full school closure, those with an EHC plan will be risk assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents/carers, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. This could include, if necessary, other services that support the child on a regular basis visiting the home to provide any essential services.

These risk assessments will consider a number of different risks to each individual, including:

- the potential health risks to the individual from COVID-19, bearing in mind any underlying health conditions. This will be on an individual basis and with advice from an appropriate health professional where required

- the risk to the individual if some or all elements of their EHC plan cannot be delivered at all, and the risk if they cannot be delivered in the normal manner or in the usual setting
- the ability of the individual's parents/carers or home to ensure their health and care needs can be met safely
- the potential impact to the individual's wellbeing of changes to routine or the way in which provision is delivered
- the support that school can provide to parents if the child is not able to attend.

Safeguarding, attendance and monitoring of wellbeing continues to be high priority during this period of general school closure. Where children with EHC plans take up an eligible place in the school, school staff will continue to ensure a safe space for these children to attend and flourish. The Headteacher will work alongside the SENDCo to ensure that appropriate staff, facilities and provision are available to secure a safe, appropriate and positive placement for those children. The support appropriate to each child in this circumstance will be recorded and reviewed on an individual basis. Any updates to a child's situation will be updated on their risk assessments.

Moor Park Primary School complete the Collaborative Risk Assessment provided by the Local Authority. These risk assessments take fully into account Government guidance for Education and Childcare settings on how to implement social distancing and will continue to follow the advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID19.

As schools re-open from September 2020, local authorities and education settings will need to complete their usual day to day attendance procedures to follow up on non-attendance. From September 2020 onwards, all students, including those with an EHC plan, are expected to attend school as normal unless they are unwell themselves, have been sent home by the school to self-isolate as part of a year group bubble, or are self-isolating due to a member of their household experiencing symptoms of Covid-19 or a positive test result. If students do not attend school, attendance staff will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who does not attend on the first day of absence. Where children with EHC plans do not take up a place in the school and are cared for at home during a partial or full school closure, an individual risk assessment will be completed. The risk assessment will include/consider individualised contact methods for each family / child and recorded in line with Government recommendations.

The Headteacher, the DSL and SENDCo will work closely with all stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of any risk assessment for children with EHC plans. This plan will be reviewed regularly and where concerns arise, the Head teacher, DSL and SENDCo will consider any referrals as appropriate. For children with SEND, but without an EHC plan, who have not been offered a place in the school, contact details for key staff will always be available on the school website. This will ensure that parents/carers of children with SEND will always have a way of contacting and communicating with school staff where needed.

Arrangements for consulting parents/carers of, and children with, SEND

Working in partnership with children with SEND and their parents/carers continues to be central to Moor Park policies and practice. The views of parents/carers and children will be considered in determining whether children with EHC plans take up an eligible place in the school, as detailed in this addendum. For children with EHC plans who are being cared for at home in the event of a full or partial school closure, their individual risk assessments will include plans to ensure that regular contact is maintained with key staff.

These communications may include: individual expectations for home learning, discussions around appropriate learning activities, adaptations to learning resources/activities and discussions of strategies for supporting children at home. These different discussions will be carried out either through Teams video call, Teams chat call/phone call, Teams private message system or via email.

For children with SEND, but without an EHC plan, signposts will be included on the school website to support them in accessing appropriate learning activities. Staff will also be mindful of the availability of support and resources when setting accessible home learning for children with SEND. The school website will include contact details so that, should parents/carers of children with SEND need to contact a member of staff for additional support or guidance for home learning, they can do so.

Where statutory processes relating to SEND are in action, the school will continue to maintain communication with parents/carers of, and children with, SEND so that their views are actively sought, considered and promoted.

Arrangements for assessing and reviewing children's progress

Moor Park Primary school recognises that assessments and reviews of children's progress will continue to be necessary for some purposes during extended periods of school closure, mainly for the purpose of statutory assessment and review for new or existing EHC plans and for other assessments being completed by external professionals, for example community paediatricians.

Where this is needed, key staff will maintain communication with parents/carers and relevant professionals to share, with necessary consents, the most current assessment information and professional observations that the school holds. Where children's EHC plans are due for review within the period of school closure, the school will discuss arrangements with parents/carers, children, the Local Authority and professionals involved in the plan to decide whether arrangements for a 'remote review' should be made, or whether reviews should be postponed until it is possible to meet with all parties involved in the plan. The SENDCo will make the necessary arrangements following this decision.

Arrangements for supporting children in moving between phases of education

For children due to move between phases of education at the end of this academic year, staff will continue to make contact with high schools to share necessary information to make children's transitions as smooth as possible. The SENDCo will make contact with SENDCos in high schools to share information on SEND needs. Where children with SEND would benefit from additional transition visits, every effort will be made to facilitate these where possible within government guidance.

Transitions within school.

For children transferring into a new year group the SENDCo will continue to inform the new class teacher of the pupil's needs where appropriate. Additional transition work will be used where necessary to relieve any worries and doubt. New class social-stories may be sent home to support with the changes where possible.

The approach to teaching children with SEND

Moor Park Primary School recognises that children with SEND need access to home learning resources and activities, which take account of their strengths and needs. Staff will also be mindful of the availability of support and resources when setting accessible home learning for children with SEND. In addition to the on-line home learning programmes via Microsoft Teams, families can request paper copies of resources to support the change of timetable and routine, sensory activities and key websites personalised to the needs of each child. The school website will include contact details so that, should parents/carers of children with SEND need to contact their child's class teacher for additional support or guidance for home learning, they can do so. In addition, the local authorities SEND newsletter is shared with all families via the school website on a weekly basis and provides families with ideas and support networks they can access.

Support for Social and Emotional Development

Moor Park Primary School understands that children's social and emotional development is particularly at risk within the current national climate with potential episodes for part or full closure. Individual risk assessments for children with EHC plans will consider children's social and emotional development and will ensure that plans are in place to enable regular review.

Regular contact between staff and parents/carers and children will be central to identifying when additional support may be needed. Where concerns are raised or are apparent within these communications, the child's risk assessment will be reviewed by key staff and appropriate action and onward referrals considered. For all parents/carers, key contact details are available on the school's website so that they are always able to reach staff for support if needed.

Staff will signpost parents/carers to other professionals who may be able to support them and their children at this time. The school will also share parent/carer and child friendly information with links to mental health and wellbeing support strategies and agencies. All

information received from other professionals around children's mental health and wellbeing is shared with families via the school website so they have access to essential phone numbers at all times.

Working alongside other professionals

Moor Park Primary School will continue to maintain contact with other professionals during periods of school closure. This will particularly include liaison with Moor Park Primary School commissioned services including the Educational Psychology Service, Advisory SEND Support Service. These services will be sharing resources which may be of use to parents/carers and professionals during this time.

The SENDCo holds contact details for external professionals already working with children with SEND including health and social care staff and will maintain both planned contacts and referrals of arising need. Contact details for the SENDCo and key staff are available via the school website should professionals need to make contact. Moor Park Primary school will signpost parents/carers to appropriate external professionals as needed and will continue to fulfil authorised requests for information for assessment or review purposes.

Review

This addendum to the SEND policy will be reviewed in light of new government guidance as and when it is published.