

SEND Policy & Information Report Addendum COVID 19

This Addendum will be implemented under the direction of the SLT, and may in some cases override elements of the main policy, in securing provision under COVID-19, for the duration of any closure of the school, and until such time as the school may be considered to be fully operational on-site.

Provision for pupils with SEND

This addendum to the SEND Policy of Perrymount Primary School is for use during the arrangements for the education of pupils during the COVID-19 partial school closure. This addendum will be updated, as needed, in line with Local Authority and National guidance regarding the COVID-19 outbreak within the United Kingdom. It is to be used in conjunction with, and read alongside, the SEND policy.

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

The school will provide differentiated learning for pupils with SEND who are attending. It may be difficult for school to provide previously planned provision for pupils 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 in order to respond to the pressures generated by coronavirus (COVID-19).

The school will endeavour to provide differentiated learning for pupils who are not attending in person through online learning and/or workpacks as appropriate.

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

Specific considerations for educational provision for children and young people with education and health care plans:

Due to the unprecedented circumstances presented by the coronavirus outbreak, the duty to secure the special educational provision specified in EHC plans has been temporarily modified so that local authorities and educational settings must use '**reasonable endeavours**' to secure the provision. Currently, local authorities and educational providers are working closely together to consider what can be provided to support children and young people with EHC plans. In providing education on site during this period, the school must have regard for multiple factors, and act in the widest interests of students and staff in reducing risk and meeting needs with the resources available. This may affect the degree and consistency of provision over time:

1. Students with EHC plans have been identified as vulnerable learners by the DFE.
2. All pupils with an education, health and care (EHC) plan have a risk assessment, in discussion with their parent or carer, to determine if their needs can be met safely at home or more safely met in the educational environment.
3. When pupils return to school, parents or carers will discuss a transition plan and, where it is appropriate, adaptations to the provision set out in EHC plan.

4. Targets may need to be amended or reviewed as appropriate (new targets may reference social distancing and hygiene routines).
5. Where access to therapeutic services is limited, provision may need to be delivered remotely for example via video link.
6. The school will provide explicit guidance and support for those pupils who may find the new routines and expectations challenging (this may include social distancing, hygiene, seating and/or safe space provision, EXIT arrangements.) Appropriate signage and visual prompts will be available.
7. Adjustments to individual timetables may be made if some staff/key workers are not in school.
8. Group and/or individual intervention delivered in school may be limited or cancelled until safely staffed.
9. EHCP Reviews may be conducted remotely during this time, if the parent wishes to proceed. The SENCO will complete the annual review paperwork and will seek teacher feedback. This will be submitted to the parent as normal, and parents will be invited to indicate if they would like to follow this up with a virtual meeting (video/ telephone).

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). This guidance was withdrawn when schools re-opened in Sept 2020. To see the original 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 Government and Local Authority guidance. Changes to provision may need to be made at short notice, and without further consultation, in managing changing circumstances.