

SEND Special arrangements in relation to COVID-19.

Following the closure of schools from the 23rd March 2020 Government guidelines stated:

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

Those with an EHC plan should be risk-assessed by their school in consultation with the local authority (LA) and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school or college place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. This could include, if necessary, carers, therapists or clinicians visiting the home to provide any essential services. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.

In order to ensure that our pupils with EHC plans are supported we have consulted families with regards to whether or not their child needs to attend school. We have also had weekly contact with the LA SEN team to review the risk assessments and needs of pupils. We have ensured that the expectations for work being done at home is understood and that pupils can access the work being set by school staff. As a MAT, we are undertaking weekly check ins to ensure that pupils outcomes are kept at the forefront and that their emotional needs are being met. Work set by class teachers takes in to account the needs of the pupils in their classes.

Parents of SEND pupils may require our support at this time and the messaging facility on eschools allows for private conversations to be had between staff and parents.

We are aware that the transition period for our pupils with SEND has been greatly affected by the current situation and we continue to work alongside our nursery and secondary colleagues to ensure that the information needed is shared.

Resources that support our pupils' emotional and social development during this unprecedented time have been uploaded on to eschools. These will continue to be updated as time passes on both eschools and the school website.

External agencies will only become involved if necessary, following the usual graduated response process detailed above. Where possible (or where it is appropriate), multi-agency virtual meetings online will be held to review EHAT's. EHCP annual review's will also be held virtually.

Returns to school are being led by the government who have suggested the return primarily of year 6, I and F. However, returns to school will be risk assessed and the parents of vulnerable children and those with EHCs will be spoken to regarding these plans and decisions at the nearest opportunity.