



COVID-19 Addendum to SEND Policy

November 2020

During these continued times of COVID-19, the schools are now fully open unless a confirmed case requires a 'bubble' or one or more individual pupils to self-isolate. This may cause some changes to the school's provision for pupils with SEND.

While children are in school:

- Children's special educational needs will continue to be met in the classroom with support and differentiation in relation to expectations, scaffolding and support with carefully chosen resources.
- Interventions (pre-teaching, catch up or bespoke intervention programmes) will be provided by an identified member of staff.
- Because of increasing numbers of coronavirus cases in the community, members of staff may be required to self-isolate and therefore may be absent from school more often than is usual. This means that there may be occasions when SEND pupils are supported by another member of the school's support staff team.
- Where there are staff shortages related to COVID-19 absence, schools will use best endeavours to prioritise support for pupils with SEND and to ensure those with EHC plans & other high needs recommendations are implemented, in consultation with parents and external agencies.
- Reviews and meetings with parents are now via Microsoft Teams unless there is a particular reason to invite them onto site.
- Meetings with external professionals are via Microsoft Teams unless they need to work directly with the child.
- Visors and/or medical grade masks are available for support staff to wear if they choose to wear one.
- SEND learning plans will be reviewed, updated and shared with parents as usual (November, March and June).
- Risk assessments have been completed for individual SEND pupils with EHC plans and will be reviewed, as appropriate.

While children are self-isolating as a group or individually (including shielding children):

- Remote learning will be implemented on Microsoft Teams wherever possible (see Learn AT Remote Learning Handbook http://bit.ly/learnat_rlhp).

- Staff will check in with pupils with SEND regularly using Teams or by phone or email parents of pupils with SEND to check on their wellbeing and check that they are able to engage in their learning activities.
- Teachers will set work which is accessible and achievable; they may provide accompanying notes and guidance, explain their expectations, or amend tasks in certain circumstances.
- Recommended websites and resources which may be of support will be shared with parents/carers.
- Staff will regularly check in with the children who have an EHC plan via Microsoft Teams/phone/email.
- All reasonable endeavours will be made within the constraints imposed by COVID-19 risk mitigation procedures to provide pupils with SEND with equipment/resources appropriate to their learning needs.
- Learning plans will be adapted in accordance with the requirements of remote learning.

If any parents with a child who has SEND would like to contact the SENDCo, they may request this via the school office (office@rpa.learnat.uk)

Links with other policies

This document links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Risk assessment
- Special needs and disabilities policy
- Equality Policy
- Remote Learning Policy and Handbook