

SEN Information Report (supplement)

Update to SEN information report in response to COVID-19: Re-opening school June 2020

This policy is a supplement to our main SEND information report and SEND policy.

What are the entitlements of children and young people with SEN when school partially re-opens on June 8th 2020?

From Monday 8th June 2020 school will be open to all pupils from Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. If your child is listed on the SEN register and is in one of these year groups you are welcome to send your child back to school on a part time basis. Your child will be expected to adhere to the new rules in place to minimise the risk of spreading of the virus.

If your child is on the SEN register but is in Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 or Year 5 the government advice continues to ask you to educate your child from home. Children continuing to be educated at home will be sent appropriate activities by their teacher, to be completed daily.

'Vulnerable children' include those who have a social worker and those with an Education Health Care Plan (EHC plan) continue to be offered a full time place in school should it be required.

All children with an EHCP have been subject to a risk assessment completed by school – the outcome of which has been shared with parents, and a collaborative decision made as to whether it is appropriate for the child to attend in the place offered.

My child has an EHC plan - does the local authority still have a legal duty to deliver provision?

The Government has passed the Coronavirus Act 2020 which contains a key amendment to the law regarding EHCPs:

- The absolute duty to make the provision in an EHC plan (section 42 of the Children and Families Act 2014) has been temporarily amended to a lesser duty to use 'reasonable endeavours'. This means that during the specified period the Local Authority needs to do whatever it reasonably can to put provision in place, but if they cannot do so, they would not necessarily be breaching the law.

As a school we will endeavor to ensure that your child receive a similar level of support to that outlined in the EHCP. Due to staffing constrictions this may not be from the usual key worker who supports your child. It is important to note the school will not be providing a full curriculum; they will be providing care for the children and incorporating education provision and a range of activities, but this will NOT be fully in line with a child's EHC provision.

We will continue to make welfare checks to those children with EHCPs who are not accessing school.

My child has an EHC plan and was due to have an annual review. What will happen now?

As a school we are currently looking into ways to ensure that annual reviews are continuing to take place. If your child is due an annual review this will take place remotely and the school SENCO will get in touch with you to discuss the format for the meeting.

A request for statutory assessment has been sent in for my child - do the LA still need to carry out EHC needs assessments?

The Coronavirus Act 2020 has allowed a relaxing in timescales for the EHC needs assessment process. This means that timescales in relation to processes for EHC assessments and plans are amended so that where it has not been reasonable practicable to meet a time limit, due to the circumstances arising because of COVID-19, the process can instead be completed 'as soon as is practicable thereafter'. These temporary changes to the law only affect various statutory timescales for processes, all of the other requirements of the EHC needs assessments and plan processes remain unchanged.

How can I support my child's learning at home?

If your child has an identified SEN (EHCP or SEN Support), the class teacher will take account of their needs when planning for and providing work to be completed at home. If you have any concerns regarding your child's learning or wellbeing at home, please contact the school SENCO, Mrs Ashton, who will be in school daily.

There are additional resources available on Bolton's local offer:

<https://mylifeinbolton.org.uk/send.aspx>

My child is in Year 6 and should be going to high school in September – what support for transition is in place?

If your child is identified as requiring SEN support in school they will be provided with some additional support with the transition to high school. If your child is in school, the SENCO will complete the work with your child during the half term. If you have chosen not to send your child back to school, additional transition resources will be sent home to you.

Who can I contact?

We realise that these are difficult times for everyone. If you have any concerns or queries please contact the school SENCO or a member of the senior leadership team Monday to Friday from 9am on 01204 61899.

Useful local links:

Bolton Independent Advisory Service - <https://iasbolton.com/home>