



Covid 19 Update to SEND Policy

The following additions to our policy have been made in light of the guidance published by the Government regarding Covid 19 and the wider opening of school.

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools> July 2nd 2020) All of the following expectations have been put in place to ensure the safety of our whole school community.

Curriculum and the Learning Environment

- Due to Covid 19, social distancing requirements social distancing will be fulfilled if possible and appropriate, however adults may require to wear PPE/risk assessment to work with individual pupils to work within the social distancing guidelines.
- Additional input may be required to support children with SEND due to the time they have missed from school.
- Social stories will be available for children who require support in this area.
- Visuals will be used to reinforce social distancing, to continually remind children of what is expected.
- Visuals about coughing and sneezing and how to care for themselves and others safely.
- Any risk assessments will be continually adapted, if required in guidance with Government guidelines.
- School uses the ROAR program to support Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs, with each classroom beginning each session with mindfulness breathing and thermometers for children to recognise and self - regulate their well-being and feelings.

Additional SEND support.

- Where specialist services are required, this may be completed using different media e.g. Zoom, or video conferencing instead of 1:1 meetings following Safer Working Practices documents. Many outside agencies e.g. CAMHS, Educational Psychology, ADHD Foundation, OSSME and Speech and Language therapists are presently using this form of communication to ensure children are continuing to access their provision.
- These outside agencies are continually contacting school to ensure we are up to date with the changes in their provision and these may be altered as we return to school.
- Children requiring additional 1:1 support will require the teaching assistant/Teacher to wear full PPE if unable to work within social distancing guidelines. This is to protect the staff and the child as it is difficult to follow social distancing rules in these situations.
- Parental involvement will continue to be priority but this may now be completed over the phone rather than 1:1 meetings. In some circumstances a video conference may be beneficial and if required will be organised appropriately.

- Children with an EHCP will continue to access the 1:1 support they require, to meet their needs, but again the staff will wear full PPE if required.
- Children will continue to access interventions but this will be completed in their bubbles following the social distancing rules. Staff may require PPE.

Support for Social, Emotional, Behavioural needs

- Due to the changes brought on by Covid 19, there may be more children that require some assistance in this area. School will provide a variety of social stories and some signposting to outside agencies that can be contacted if necessary.
- Social stories will be put on the website for parents to access to enable them to go over the transition back to school. Hopefully these will help to continue to support the child's understanding of the changes that have occurred due to the Covid 19 pandemic.
- There will also be a range of information sheets available through a link to ADDvanced solutions, that may support the needs of your child. This will be on our website under SEND, along with lots of additional information and websites.
- Access to Calm Central and Calm Central Stations around school may also be available for children who are really finding their social, emotional well-being very challenging at this time. This would require a conversation with parents and teachers to ascertain their needs and what provision would be beneficial.
- Access to Calm Central would also be on a 1:1 basis to support the child's needs, due to the social distancing rules.
- Targeted activities i.e. Mindfulness activities will also be available in the classrooms. E.g. colouring, exercises, activities etc.
- They will be given special cards that allow access here for a specific amount of time for the main Calm Central Station in Key Stage 2 building. Sand timers will be used as a visual to support the child. (see also Covid Update to Behaviour Policy).
- The main Calm Central Station room in Key Stage 2, will also be a sensory room where some children can access sensory activities, as and when required.
- All children who access the Calm Central Stations will be recorded in a log to monitor frequency of access and any increased need.
- Additional input from outside agencies may also be available but these may be through video conferencing until further input and recommendations from the Government identifying ways in which to communicate with parents and children.

SEND support for staff

- Staff are accessing additional training through use of video conferencing and webinars from the relevant agencies. These will raise awareness of the best practice strategies for transitioning children back into mainstream school in September ensuring they have the best possible provision, ensuring their safety.

If you have any concerns or need advice please contact the office and arrange a telephone call to discuss your concerns. The number is 0151- 525- 0843 and ask for Mrs Potts.

I have attached a variety of information on the website under SEND for parents to access to support yourselves or to contact some outside agencies direct for support. Please have a look online!