



COVID-19 SEND Policy Addendum for Bromley Heath Junior School

Context

From 20th March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response. This addendum of the Bromley Heath Junior School SEND policy contains details of our individual SEND arrangements in the following areas:

SEND Government Guidance relating to Covid 19

Reasonable endeavours

Children with EHC plans

Meetings with parents and outside agencies

EHCP assessments

Annual reviews

Home learning for pupils with SEND

Support from the Local Authority

SEND Government Guidance relating to Coronavirus (COVID-19)

There have been two major changes to SEND legislation. These were put in place from the 1st May 2020.

1. Section 42 of the CFA (duty to special educational provision and healthcare provision in accordance with EHC plan): the duty on LAs or commissioning health bodies to secure or arrange the provision is temporarily modified to a duty to use 'reasonable endeavours' to do so.

2. The SEND (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 amend regulations that specify **timescales** that principally relate to EHC needs assessments and plans. Where it is not reasonably practicable, or is impractical, to meet that time limit for a reason relating to the incidence or transmission of coronavirus, the specific time limit will not apply-process must be completed as soon as reasonably practicable.

These arrangements are in place until the 25th September 2020.

Reasonable endeavours

Alternative arrangement will be dependent on

- The needs of the child
- The provision that is specified in a plan and the specific local circumstances
- The availability and capacity of staff
- The extent of the arrangements schools can make to provide home learning packs and the availability of suitable IT equipment in the home

Having considered 'reasonable endeavours' we have looked at EHC plans and provision will occur if we have the availability of staff.

There may be changes to the staff who teach the child, in terms of teacher and teaching assistants. Due to staff capacity it may not be possible to provide EHC pupils with the



teaching assistant who they would normally work with. There will also be changes to the environment of the classroom and the structure of the day and these will be communicated to parents.

Where a change to staffing is necessary then access to information on the pupil, pupil passports or learning plans and supporting documentation will be made available to the teachers working with that pupil. These will give a picture of where the child is working and the approach the child responds to.

Children with EHC plans

Children with EHC plans will be learning within a pod of up to 15 children, supported by a teacher and teaching assistant. It may not be possible to provide children with the 1:1/small group provision listed in their EHCP. It may not be possible to provide the availability of technology the school usually has, such as I pads and laptops due to restrictions from COVID-19.

Where appropriate, an individual risk assessment for children with an EHC plan will be carried out and provision will be reviewed on a case by case basis. Where a child with an EHCP is unable to attend school due to self-isolation all endeavours will be made to provide sufficient home learning for that child. This will be reviewed and monitored by the class teacher and SENCO.

Meetings with parents and outside agencies

Face to face meetings with parents of pupils with EHC plans will not happen due to social distancing guidelines. These meetings will either take place by telephone or as virtual meetings, in line with the guidance on reducing transmission of coronavirus.

In some circumstances, meetings with specialist staff, including Educational Psychologists, Speech and Language Therapists will also take place either virtually or by telephone. If a parent requires such a service, then they can contact the SENCO, Chloe Maynard, via the school office, email or the school mobile, who will then make contact with the outside agencies as part of our graduated approach.

EHCP assessments

We will still be reviewing individual children's provision and needs during this time. Where we feel we have enough evidence and assessments to make an application for an EHCP assessment, this procedure will be followed. This application will then be forwarded to South Gloucestershire Council via Access and Response. The LA is working to ensure that the statutory processes for children with SEND continue in line with statutory requirements.

However it should be noted that during this period the Government have said where it is not reasonably possible to conclude an action within the statutory timescale, such as 6 weeks for a decision to be made about whether to make an EHC assessment, the LA will instead have to complete the process either as soon as reasonably practicable.

We are aware that this is a very worrying time for everyone and would like to provide assurance that we will endeavour to minimise the impact and continue to meet the needs



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of all children with special educational needs within our school and continue to uphold our ethos of inclusivity and access to a full and balanced curriculum along with the other children attending school.

Annual Reviews

Annual review requirements remain in place. Current circumstances will mean that the Review is shorter and will probably involve less people. The review between parents and the SENCO will either take place over the telephone or by virtual means.

Where it is impractical for an LA to complete an annual review within the prescribed timescales for a reason relating to Coronavirus, then the LA must complete it as soon as reasonably practicable.

Home learning for pupils with SEND

All pupils will receive weekly home learning packs, which will also be placed on the website. Children will receive a printed pack unless a parent request otherwise. If a parent of a child with SEND is struggling to access these then please contact the SENCO, Chloe Maynard, via the office email address.

The Department of Education have also published advice on how to support children with SEND at home and a list of resources to help parents and that information can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-children-with-send-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_source=2e5b55a3-a70c-4ef9-9d11-f63b6d452437&utm_medium=email

Where possible, children will have weekly contact with peers and their class teacher / TA /HLTA through Microsoft Teams or on the phone. The SENCO will have regular phone contact and be available through email or the school mobile if there are any queries or concerns.

Support from the Local Authority

South Gloucestershire Council have also made available a series of home learning resources specifically to support pupils with SEND. Parents can find the home learning site at <https://www.integra.co.uk/home-learning/>

As well as activities this also includes ideas on how parents can support their child's emotional wellbeing. This is called SENSational learning and is aimed at helping parents support the needs of their child at home.