



Covid19 Addendum for SEND Policy January 2021

Thurrock Local Authority Update

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – special education needs

We are continuing our legal duty to provide education, health and care (EHC) needs assessments, when requested or needed. Our [local offer](#) has links to resources that parent/carers may find helpful during the national lockdown for Covid-19.

By law, the process should take up to 20 weeks but this can change in exceptional circumstances, such as the current [coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) outbreak.

Government Guidance following national lockdown for Covid19

Temporary changes to SEND legislation

The following statement has been taken from the DfE '*Restricting attendance during the national lockdown: schools'* updated January 2021

“Some pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) (whether with education, health and care plans or on SEN support) will continue to need specific help with the changes to routines they are experiencing, so teachers and special educational needs coordinators should plan to meet these needs, for example using social stories.

Schools, local authorities, health professionals, regional schools commissioners and other services should work together to ensure that children with medical conditions are fully supported, including through the use of individual healthcare plans, so that they may receive an education in line with their peers. In some cases, the pupil's medical needs will mean this is not possible, and educational support will require flexibility. Our guidance on supporting pupils at school with medical conditions remains in place.”

Plans for re-integration and transition to new classes/schools

We know that any transitions, especially for many of our pupils with SEND, can be stressful and needs to be well planned, in advance, and should not be introduced abruptly. We understand that re-integration back in to school and/or transition to a new class or school is going to be made even more challenging following the Covid19 national lockdown. Furthermore, we know that pupil's reactions to returning to school will vary greatly and some pupils will potentially need much more additional support.

As such, our aim is to plan carefully for transition and reintegration and work closely with parents/carers to help prepare their child/children and guide them through these transitions carefully. As the whole school returns we will continue to review the provision to meet the differing needs of our pupils with SEND as they are taught as part of their year group bubble.

The SENco will remain in contact with the families and children with SEND and will ensure that the home learning is adapted according to their needs.

Risk assessments were completed during lockdown and will be reviewed and used over the spring term, in identifying what additional support pupils with education, health and care plans need to make a successful return to full education. Risk assessments will also prove useful if pupils have to self-isolate, or if a local outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19) requires the school to return to more limited attendance, or temporarily close.

The SENco will contact parent/carers and involve them in planning for their child's return to school at the end of the national lockdown.