

COVID 19 School Closure SEND Report to Governing Body

How have children with Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs), High Needs SEN and vulnerable pupils been supported through COVID Lockdown?

Home Learning:

Children with EHCPs were given tailored resource packs prepared by their supporting adults/teachers at the time of schools closing. Work was also set via the online programmes Purple Mash or Seesaw. Depending on the school.

Work packs were updated for families who did not have access to the online materials.

Each family was contacted weekly via telephone and where this was not possible via email or text message.

LSA also contacted their children they worked with (who were not in school) to maintain contact for the child.

Parental contact

Parental contact has been regular. School staff have telephoned all parents of the pupils with an EHCP each week to check in and help with any difficulties which may have arisen. A log of all contact has been kept by the SENDCo.

Parents have also used email and text messages to contact staff in school.

Online meetings have been arranged when required too (please see Annual Reviews and EHCP Requests).

Where contact has been difficult to achieve, home visits have been made to make sure the children

On returning to school in September all children on the SEND register were offered a telephone meeting with the SENDCo. During any subsequent bubble closure's contact has been made with parents of the children with EHCPs.

Vulnerable Children

The Inclusion team continued to monitor and support vulnerable pupils including those who have a social worker attached to the family.

Child Protection meetings have continued remotely, and new cases have been reported to the appropriate teams as necessary.

Any Operation encompass notifications from GMP were followed up with a phone call to the family.

Vulnerable families were identified by the Inclusion team and these children were invited to attend school for core hours Monday-Friday.

Free School Meals

Children entitled to free school meals were offered a choice of supermarkets for their vouchers.

School ordered the vouchers on a twice weekly basis. Families would then collect these from school. This also provided a source of contact for the families.

Annual Reviews and EHCP Requests

Statutory work has continued. This includes annual Reviews and requests for Education and Health Plans (EHCPs).

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Where possible Annual Reviews were held remotely during this time. Online platforms were used, including Teams, and was sufficient for agencies to share information. Other methods, including telephone and email have also been used.

Request for EHCP: statutory assessment was underway for some pupils which continued during lockdown. SENDCo's, parent and LSA worked with outside agencies to complete the assessment process throughout this time.

Where possible SENDCo's continued to work on their EHCP requests and continue to the necessary information and assessments.

Risk Assessments for pupils with an EHCP

In March 2020 Manchester city Council requested that school complete a spreadsheet (Risk Assessment) for pupils who have an EHCP to decide whether they would be safer at home than school. This was done and returned to the LA. Discussions around this were held with the parents, Headteachers and any other relevant professionals to inform the decision. This was also reviewed regularly with parents during the weekly communication.

School also completed their own risk assessments, weighing up the protective factors in the home if children were staying at home.

Risk assessments were reviewed when the children returned to school and amended as required to compliment the new COVID systems established in school.

Transition

All Year 6 children were given a copy of the book *The Kid Who came From Space*. Year 6 staff planned worked around this text for those attending school and for those at home to access.

The SENDCo, DSL and FSW liaised with secondary schools and completed their transition meetings over Zoom or Teams. Copies of records were forwarded as normal at the start of the next academic year.

Some schools offered one-to-one transition for some children with additional needs. This was arranged by the SENDCo and parent's attended the appointment with the school.

Outside agencies

Contact has been ongoing with most agencies including Educational Psychology, Speech and Language, School Nursing team and CAMHS. Visits by agencies were not permitted during this time but advice was sought virtually where possible. However, this has created a back log of children waiting to be seen by professionals. Currently Schools are limiting the number of visitors, but they are permitted in relation to SEND needs to prevent further delay for our children.

Staff development

Staff have been accessing online training wherever possible. Including an Introduction to Safeguarding refresher course that all staff have accessed. When staff bubbles have been isolating, LSA's have been encouraged to complete further online CPD including, Speech language and Communication needs, ASD and ADHD, and Children's mental health. Team teach training was held in school and was prioritised due to safeguarding pupils

Other

- IEP progress has been difficult to measure during this time. Staff had a robust transition with the previous class teachers and IEPs were reviewed and new targets written where relevant at the end of Autumn 1 so children had time to settle back into the school routine.