

**Special
Need &**



Iqra Academy

**Education
Disability**

Response to Covid-19

This Annex to the SEND policy sets out the arrangements in place to support our children with SEND during the Covid-19 partial school closure starting from 20th March 2020 and the full reopening of schools in September 2020.

Vulnerable Children and Eligibility

Vulnerable children include those children and young people up to the age of 25 with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

Those with an EHCP will be risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home.

From 20th March 2020 to 1st June 2020 Government advice stated that every child with an EHCP who “can be safely cared for at home” should remain at home.

From 1st June until schools reopening in September 2020 Government advice stated that children with an EHCP whose needs can be “as safely or more safely” be met in the educational environment should be encouraged to attend school.

The risk assessments consider a number of different risks to each individual including:

- the potential health risks to the child/ young person from COVID-19, bearing in mind any underlying health conditions. This must be on an individual basis with advice from an appropriate health professional where required
- the risk to the child/ young person if some or all elements of their EHC plan cannot be delivered at all, and the risk if they cannot be delivered in the normal manner or in the usual setting
- the ability of the child/ young person’s parents or home to ensure their health and care needs can be met safely
- the potential impact to the child/ young person’s wellbeing of changes to routine or the way in which provision is delivered

The Coronavirus Act 2020 allows the Secretary of State, where appropriate, to temporarily lift the statutory duty on local authorities to maintain the precise provision in EHCPs, with local authorities needing instead to apply ‘reasonable endeavors’ to support these children and their families.

Supporting Remote Learning for Students with SEND

Teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress and development of the pupils in their class, including where pupils access support from teaching assistants or specialist staff. Remote learning tasks will continue to be differentiated by the teacher and supported by the teacher.

The following arrangements are in place to support learners with remote learning:

- Students with an EHCP or in receipt of Wave 2 support have weekly contact with a member of the SEND TA team to offer support with remote learning. Contact is from SENDCo.
- If required TAs attend live lessons via Zoom/TEAMS and offer support to students with SEND by:
 - Responding to questions in the chat forum
 - Leading a smaller 'break-out' group for a specific task
 - Providing differentiated resources and support for independent tasks set via email or phone communication

Specific interventions that are 'additional to' or 'different from' what is widely available are not able to continue (or continue in the same format) during the period of school closure. Students and parents/ carers can access signposts for support on the school website including the Educational Psychology Service.

For all parents/carers, key contact details are available on the school's website so that they are always able to reach school staff for support if needed. Where possible all meetings will be conducted by telephone or using video conferencing. Where this is not possible, essential meetings will be conducted outside, or in a room large enough to allow for social distancing.

Supporting the Return to School for Students with SEND

Any pupils with complex needs or who need close contact care will have the same support as normal as distancing is not possible here.

Staff will be rigorous about hand washing and respiratory hygiene.

Specialists, therapists, clinicians, and other support staff for pupils with SEND will provide assessments, interventions, and reviews as usual.

In-class support:

- TAs are assigned to year group bubbles for in-class support
- TAs will maintain social distancing (2m) between themselves and students as far as possible
- TAs will work to the side of a student rather than directly opposite
- TAs will not place themselves with a student for the duration of a lesson. TAs will move into the proximity of a student when there is a support need (TAs will monitor the classroom for verbal and non-verbal indicators that support is required)
- TAs will make use of mini whiteboards to model work rather than sharing the student's workbook/ worksheet

Intervention sessions (1:1 or small group) will be provided as normal with adjustments as outlined below:

- Intervention sessions will take place within the school. Antibacterial gel/wipes will be used to clean down shared workspaces at the end of each session
- Year group bubbles will be maintained.
- Teachers and TAs will maintain social distancing (2m) between themselves and students as far as possible
- Teachers and TAs will work to the side of a student rather than directly opposite.

