



20th March 2020

Arrangements for Children with EHCPs during School Closure

Dear Parent,

You will be aware that the Government has announced the closure of all schools in the UK from the end of Friday 19th March, in response to COVID 19. This means that from Monday 23rd March the school will be closed and children should remain at home.

The Government has requested that all schools identify the Child Care arrangements they can put in place for children with EHCPs, arrangements are detailed below.

The government is clear in its guidance:-

- **If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading;**
- **Schools are asked to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend;**
- **The fewer the children in education settings the lower the risk the virus can spread;**
- **Many parents of children with EHCPs will be able to ensure that their child is kept at home, and every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

Further to the above advice in the event that Child Care is provided for children with EHCPs, Parents and settings must be mindful that it is not provided to the detriment of the child's emotional wellbeing. We are working in unprecedented times, as such the Local Authority acknowledges the impact this will be having on vulnerable young people and how change and uncertainty can be confusing and upsetting for them.

With this in mind, in the duty of care placed on Local Authorities and Schools under Section 157 and 175 of the Education Act 2007 to exercise their functions with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, we are required to consider the impact of alternative school arrangement on individual children with EHCPs. Where such concerns exist we will be raising these with Parents in order that they can make review arrangements for their child.

In making plans with you, we must also acknowledge the **limited and already reduced school resources available in these difficult times** as a result of some staff needing to self-isolate due to: underlying health conditions; demonstrating symptoms; a family member demonstrating symptoms. We must be mindful of this as we seek to offer sustainable child care provision.

With this in mind in line with Government guidance child care provision delivered by the school is only for those parents/carers **who are unable** to make alternative arrangements for their children to be looked after.

Should the capacity of the school in providing child care lead us to change provision on offer, we will seek to contact parents as soon as this is identified.

When will child care provision be available?

Child care arrangements will be put in place for your child **during term time school hours** to support their safe supervision during the school day: 8.50am to 3.15pm (they can arrive in school from 8.35am) from Monday 23rd March.

We are currently planning to close all provision during the scheduled Easter break – we hope that this will support us in providing a safe, sustainable and virus-free environment from Tuesday 14th April. We will maintain contact with families using the service during this period.

What arrangements will be in place?

When children arrive at school they are to come into the HUB and sit down in order for the register to be taken. We are sorry that children **cannot arrive on the school site ahead of 8.35am**, the Courtyard will be closed in order to minimise gatherings and reduce the spread of COVID 19.

Before arrival and handover children will remain the responsibility of their parent, therefore usual absence processes apply: in the event your child is not attending school child care, you need to call the school office and leave a message.

The usual expectations of the school apply at all times during child care provision - this includes expectations of behaviour. Children will be expected to wear school uniform.

You will need to provide your child with a packed lunch, unless they are in receipt of free school meals, in which case meals will be provided. They will also need to bring a healthy snack for break time as these will not currently be available for sale on the school site as we prioritise the provision of lunches for children who qualify for free school meals.

If your child has a game or activity they wish to bring in from home they are encouraged to do so.

What next?

We will be seeking to make contact with you over the course of the next hour to establish whether you wish your child to access any of the child care provision on offer and to answer any further questions that you may have. We will also request 2 contact telephone numbers in order that we can contact you in an emergency or if your child develops any virus symptoms.

Yours sincerely

Katy Galling
Head of Learning and Development

Niema Bohrayba
Chair of Governing Board