

SEND policy COVID 19 addendum, September 2020

Whilst we endeavour to fulfil our duties as set out in the local offer and SEND policy, we are realistic about the limitations that may be presented to us whilst addressing the needs of our children during a global pandemic. As such we have identified some areas of our practice which may need to be altered for a period of time.

Supporting children

Government guidance states that *'maintaining a distance between people whilst inside and reducing the amount of time they are in face to face to contact lowers the risk of transmission. We know that this is not always possible, particularly when working with children and young people with complex needs, or those who need close contact care. Educational and care support should be provided for these children and young people as normal, with other increased hygiene protocols in place to minimise risk of transmission.'* Protocols may include but are not limited to increased hand washing and use of sanitisers and the use of face covering or shields, as well as increased cleaning schedules of areas and equipment.

'Where possible, for example with older children with less complex needs who are able to self-regulate their behaviours without distress, children and young people should also be supported to maintain distance and not touch staff and their peers. This will not be possible for the youngest children, and some children and young people with complex needs, and it is not feasible in some settings where space does not allow. Settings doing this where they can, and even doing this some of the time will help.

Settings should make small adaptations to the classroom to support distancing where possible. That should include seating pupils' side by side and facing forwards, rather than face to face or side on, and might include moving unnecessary furniture out of classrooms to make more space.'

As we continue to navigate this pandemic, there will undoubtedly be times where your child's usual team of support maybe changed or altered due to factors such as 'trace and trace' isolation, as well as common illnesses, as always please be assured that we have

procedures in place to ensure that any of our highly skilled staff will be able to step in to support the needs of your child.

Remote education support

If a class, group or small number of pupils need to self-isolate, we have the capacity to offer educational sessions remotely through the use of Purple Mash, Bug Club and other online platforms as set out in our 'Home Learning Offer'.

We recognise that some pupils with SEND may not be able to access remote education without adult support and will work with families to find a balance that enables their children to receive a broad curriculum as well as address their additional needs; for example, children with EHCPs will have specialists involved in their education and it may be possible for their recommendations and schemes of work to be continued at home by adapting of plans or selecting online learning materials to support particular needs. Specialist trained practitioners in school may be able to support a specific need. This support will be offered on a case by case basis.

As per our home learning offer for all children, children with SEND will receive feedback and support through Class Dojo and our other on-line platforms.

Teachers and support staff will endeavour to 'check in' more regularly with SEND pupils and support parents to adapt home learning if needed, however, this may be limited by other factors, including the health of staff and the needs of the pupils, class, cohort who are isolating.