

Addendum to The SEND Information Report

Special Arrangements for Partial School Closures in relation to Covid-19



Updated January 2021

Purpose: This is an Annex to the SEND Information Report, setting out the arrangements in place to support our children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities during the COVID-19 related partial school closure starting from 5th January 2021.

What are the entitlements of children and young people with SEND when schools are closed due to Coronavirus?

All schools were ordered to close to the vast majority of children on Tuesday 5th January 2021. The school remains open to provide education for the children of key workers, and vulnerable children.

Children classified as vulnerable in the Government Guidance for schools document (updated 8th January 2021) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintained-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintained-educational-provision> will be offered in-school provision. Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP). The majority of children with SEND, who receive SEND Support at school but do not have an EHCP, would be expected to stay home unless they have a social worker or a parent/carer who is a key worker.

Do I have to send my child to school?

If you feel it would be too high risk to send your child to school because they, or someone else in your family, is at particularly high risk, there is no requirement to send your child in. Under the Coronavirus Act, the criminal penalty for parents failing to send their child to school is to be temporarily halted.

Those parents/carers who choose to not take up available provision will be supported through regular contact from school staff to offer guidance and support for remote learning.

In order to ensure that our children with EHCPs are supported; full time provision is available in school. However, if learning at home, it is essential that children can access the work being set by school staff. In addition to live lessons with class teachers, children with an EHCP will be offered daily live intervention sessions with familiar adults.

My child has an EHCP and is attending school. How will their learning be supported?

Thrapston Primary School will continue to provide a full curriculum, incorporating educational provision and a range of activities in line with your child's EHCP provision. Adult support will be in place and this will be with the child's 'usual' adult wherever possible.

How can I support my child's learning at home?

If a child has an identified SEND (EHCP or SEN Support), the class teacher will take account of their needs when planning for and providing work to be completed at home.

This may include:

- differentiated (colour-coded) tasks to enable children to choose their starting points and level of challenge;
- suggesting different ways in which children can present their work;
- giving more detailed instructions;
- providing parents with suggestions to make tasks more practical in nature;
- providing 1:1 or small group intervention sessions each week;

- providing devices such as laptops;
- delivering paper-based intervention packs/additional resources;
- providing alternative work which is targeted at their level of need where they may not ordinarily access curriculum subjects at age expected levels.

Have the policies for identifying children with SEND and assessing their needs changed?

Our school policies for identifying children with SEND remain in place with concerns being directed to the SENDCO - swebb@thrapston.net. Should assessment of their needs be required the SENDCO will work with parents to enable this to occur in a COVID safe environment.

Risk assessments of children with SEND will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis with risk assessments being put in place if required, in partnership with parents. A risk assessment will not be used to prevent access to provision for children with an EHCP.

An EHCP was applied for before schools partially closed. What will happen now?

SEND panels are still sitting to complete the EHCP application process. The school SENDCO and families will be notified if an assessment has been agreed to take place. Some assessments for EHCPs can take place remotely (via video link or phone). This will be dependent on the case and how the family wish to proceed. Assessments can be placed on hold until school returns if this is deemed the most appropriate action.

My child has been granted an EHCP during partial school closures. What should I do?

If your child is granted an EHCP during partial school closures, parents and the school will be notified and your child will then fall under the category of a child with an EHCP and will therefore be included in the 'vulnerable' category. Thrapston Primary School will consult with families to determine if the risk of not attending school is greater than remaining at home. A decision will then be made if the child remains at home or attends school.

How will safeguarding, attendance and wellbeing be monitored?

Engagement in online learning and wellbeing will be monitored on a daily basis and families will be supported through regular contact. Home-visits will be implemented if contact is not achieved. Safeguarding concerns will be managed using normal in-school procedures.

How will vulnerable children be supported in school and/or at home?

Vulnerable children will be offered in-school provision, supported by teachers and teaching assistants. They will engage in lessons, following their in-school timetable and curriculum. This will be overseen by the staff in their year group bubble. Vulnerable children who are working at home will be supported in completing their learning tasks by regular contact. In addition, class teachers are available to respond to emails at intervals throughout the day.

What are the arrangements for assessing and reviewing children's progress towards their outcomes?

Children will be provided with live online lessons and intervention sessions, mapped to their curriculum. Independent tasks will be issued via the school blog (and paper-based packs where necessary) and these can be submitted to teachers for marking to enable an oversight of current progress. Regular contact with parents will be maintained to promote engagement with learning tasks and discuss any changes in requirements.

Under the Coronavirus Act, the requirement to carry out annual reviews for children with an EHCP may be postponed where this is considered to be 'appropriate and proportionate.' However, Thrapston Primary School will continue to hold annual reviews. These will be carried out remotely and will be managed to ensure that the contribution of parents and children/young people are at the heart of the process.

For children receiving SEND support, learning plan reviews will be carried out and shared with parents on a termly basis.

Arrangements for supporting children in moving between phases of education

We are aware that the transition period for children with SEND has been greatly affected by the current situation and we continue to work alongside our secondary and early years colleagues to ensure that the information needed is shared. Children who are moving between phases of education will be identified and discussions will take place between school staff and parents to determine any additional support required.

How can I help my child cope with the changes?

We understand that this is a significant change for many families. Please give yourself time to adjust to a new routine and above all, do not place too much pressure on yourself or your child to complete schoolwork. Maintaining positive mental health and emotional wellbeing is very important. We will continue to share regular newsletters with further information regarding support available.

Working alongside other professionals

In spite of the current restrictions we will continue to work with specialist services to meet the needs of individuals. This will be achieved following COVID secure processes whilst ensuring the specialist expertise required can be accessed.

Arrangements for handling complaints from parents of children with SEN about the provision made at school.

Our usual processes regarding complaints remain in place under the school's complaints procedure with parents being encouraged to contact, in the first instance the class teacher and SENDCO, then, if unresolved, the Head teacher. The governor with specific responsibility for SEND may be involved if necessary. In the case of an unresolved complaint the issue should be taken through the general Governors complaints procedures (see separate Complaints Policy).

Who can I contact?

We realise that these are difficult times for everyone. If you have any concerns or queries, please contact your child's class teacher or a member of the Pastoral Care Team.

Sharon Webb (SENDCO and AHT) swebb@thrapston.net

Claire Golding (Family Support Worker) cgolding@thrapston.net

Zoey Boon (Pastoral Care Worker) zboon@thrapston.net

The Local Offer and where it is published.

The Northamptonshire Local Offer can be viewed online here <https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/SEND/local-offer>

Review date

This addendum will be reviewed on a termly basis. Next review April 2021.