

Amendment to the Special Education Needs Policy during the COVID-19 pandemic

Education, Health and Care Plans

Following the wider reopening of all schools from 1 September we will continue to refer the Special Education Needs Policy already adopted at King Charles I School and Sixth Form.

When schools were asked to close on 20 March, the Secretary of State modified section 42 (Section F of EHCP) of the Children and Families Act 2014 as allowed by the Coronavirus Act 2020 on April 30 2020. This modified the duty on local authorities to secure SEN provision and on health commissioning bodies to arrange health provision in accordance with EHC plans, so that they can discharge this by using reasonable endeavours.

There was also the introduction of the Special Educational Needs and Disability (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020. This temporarily amended four sets of Regulations that specify legal timescales applying to LAs, CCGs and others, mainly around processes relating to EHC needs assessments and plans.

Risk assessments have been returned to the Worcestershire Local Authority detailing the reasonable endeavours made to meet the needs of each student with an EHCP. During the lockdown, King Charles I School and Sixth Form will maintain regular contact with these students and will provide support via telephone calls from Achievement Assistants to help support their home learning tasks. Some students may be asked to come into school for support with their learning, if it is safe to do so.

Annual Reviews of EHCPs will still take place via telephone or video calls meeting with families and the student. Decisions of any amendments will still be based on the individual needs, provision and outcomes for the student.

Students with SEND

Support is made available for students with identified needs via telephone calls and emails. Reasonable adjustments are made to the amount of work expected by teachers in liaison with the Achievement Assistant linked to supporting them whilst learning is home based. Some students may be asked to come into school to help with their learning, if it is safe to do so.