



The Spire Multi-Academy Trust

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy and Information Report Addendum

September 2020 COVID-19 addendum for SEN policy and Information Report:

In view of the extended time out of school for some of our pupils and the social, emotional changes they have experienced, we are adapting our approaches as needed on an individual case by case basis. This means that although we have a thorough, detailed risk assessment, we are aware that adjustments may need to be made to accommodate the needs of children for whom the new school year is more of a challenge. This may impact how a child comes into school, what support a child is offered during the school day and what additional resources might be offered in order to ensure each child feels safe and happy.

COVID-19 makes it more difficult for our schools to provide the specified special educational and health provision in an EHC plan and the implementation of provision specified in professional reports for all children. Possible reasons why this might be more difficult are:

- The child is not currently attending school due to self-isolation.
- The following of 'social distancing' guidelines disrupts schools normal 1:1 or small group provision for those who are still attending and make certain interventions impractical.
- The resources to secure the provision are reduced, for example because of illness, self-isolation or the need to direct staff resource at responding to the pressures generated by COVID-19.

Communication with parents and carers is key to a successful transition back into school at this time. We therefore welcome contact and we hope then to work together collaboratively for the best outcome for each child. If you have any questions or worries please contact your school's SENDCo

There are additional training courses being offered to school staff and parents, though our early help partners, at the moment and we are keen to access these in order to best support the children.

January 2021 - National lockdown update:

Our Trust aims to be an inclusive Trust. We actively seek to remove the barriers to learning that can hinder or exclude individual pupils, or groups of pupils. This means that equality of opportunity must be a reality for all our children. Every child has an entitlement to the full curriculum and the needs of each individual child are recognised and met using a variety of approaches and differentiated teaching, in partnership with parents and other professionals. It is necessary, in light of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic and the national lockdown announced on the 5th January 2021 we have had to make some further adjustments to the SEND policy. These adjustments are set out below:

- From the 6th January 2021, school will continue to offer places to all children with EHC plans and those who are identified as vulnerable as a result of their SEND whose risk assessment determines that attending school is the right course of action.
- The school SENDCo's working alongside the local authority will keep risk assessments for EHCP pupils up-to-date to reflect any changes in circumstances.
- Where a child with a SEND or an EHCP is not in school contact will continue to be made through online learning and where this does not happen the appropriate safeguarding procedures will be followed to ensure the emotional wellbeing, engagement in learning and plans for returning to school/online learning.

As with the September 2020 COVID-19 update, COVID-19 continues to make it more difficult for our schools to provide the specified special educational and health provision in an EHC plan and the implementation of provision specified in professional reports for all children. Possible reasons why this might be more difficult are:

- The child is not currently attending school.
- The following of 'social distancing' guidelines disrupts schools normal 1:1 or small group provision for those who are still attending and make certain interventions impractical.
- The resources to secure the provision are reduced, for example because of illness, self-isolation or the need to direct staff resource at responding to the pressures generated by COVID-19.

Schools will ensure that parents are informed of services for additional support, for example around anxiety, mental health and behaviour.

COVID-19 is limiting the level of service that can be provided by outside agencies (such as educational psychologists, SALT, Learning support and CCN) who provide advice and

information for SEN pupils. Your school's SENDCo is liaising with these services and passing advice and guidance onto staff and parents as needed.

Our schools will continue to provide differentiated learning for those pupils with SEND both those attending school and those learning virtually. It may be difficult for schools to provide the provision on Pupil Profiles/Behaviour support plans/Pastoral Support Plans due to the following reasons:

- The following of 'social distancing' guidelines disrupts schools normal 1:1 or small group provision for those who are still attending and make certain interventions impractical.
- The resources to secure the provision are reduced, for example because of illness, self-isolation or the need to direct staff resource at responding to the pressures generated by COVID-19.

Our schools will use their best endeavours to provide required and appropriate support for their pupils with SEND.