

Annex to Corby Technical School's SEND Information Report: COVID-19, school closures and SEND provision

EFFECTIVE FROM: January 2021

NEXT REVIEW: As government advice is updated or September 2021, whichever is sooner

Key contacts

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Local Offer: [Northamptonshire Local Offer](#)

We will work collaboratively with families, putting in place reasonable adjustments as necessary, so that pupils with SEND can successfully access remote education alongside their peers.

Context

This Annex to the Corby Technical School's SEND Information Report has been created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. From 5th January 2021 parents and carers were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for vulnerable students. Corby Technical School has implemented remote learning using Microsoft Teams, using live teaching to best support students and parents and carers.

This Annex must be read in conjunction with Corby Technical School's SEND Information Report which can be found [here](#)

We will use our best endeavours to secure the special educational provision.

Guidance from the DfE is being reviewed and updated regularly as we navigate through these unprecedented times and therefore this Annex will also be updated as required.

Key information

What are the entitlements of children and young people with SEND when schools are closed due to COVID-19?

All schools have been ordered to effectively close, retaining a staff to provide education for the children of key workers, and vulnerable children. Vulnerable children include those who have a Social Worker and those with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP). If your child has an EHCP they are eligible to attend school. The majority of children with SEND, who receive SEN Support at school but do not have an EHCP, are expected to stay home unless they have a Social Worker, are otherwise considered vulnerable or have a parent/carer who is a key worker.

Further information about vulnerable and key worker definitions can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

It is essential that the guidance from Public Health England is followed to help stop the spread of the virus.

How will my child be educated?

At Corby Technical School we are providing at least 5 hours of remote education each school day using Microsoft Teams and other approved packages. All students will receive live lessons via Teams, whether they are in school or at home. In school there are additional adults who can support students with their learning.

For students with SEND, their teachers are best-placed to know how their learning needs can be most effectively met to ensure they continue to make progress even if they are not able to be in school due to self-isolating.

Information about our remote learning offer can be found [here](#)

Do I have to send my child to school?

If your child has an EHCP you are strongly encouraged to send your child to school. The SENCO (or other designated person) will have contacted you to discuss this. If your child is not attending school a risk assessment will be completed with the school. The purpose of the risk assessment is to document how your child's education will be supported. Any risk assessment should incorporate the views of the child/young person and their parents/carers. This will inform the decision about whether they should continue in school, or whether their needs can be met at home safely.

Please note that students who have an EHCP and do not attend school will usually be coded as authorised absence. However the criminal penalty for parents failing to send their children to school is temporarily disapplied at the current time.

How will my child's learning be supported?

The school will provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all students, including those with SEND. The class teacher will take account of the needs of all students, including those with SEND, when planning for and delivering live lessons. How this is achieved will vary according to the students' need and may include:

- Differentiated and adapted lessons – for example suggesting different ways in which children can present their work; giving more detailed instructions; allowing more time to complete tasks and work which is targeted at their level of need where they may not ordinarily access curriculum subjects at age expected levels;
- Provide devices (laptops and internet access) to those who require it
- Digital support where needed (e.g. familiarising student with Teams and how to work it, log on etc.)
- Students with EHCP's invited to attend school where they work in with TA support
- Regular contact with a member of the SEND Team to review progress
- Maintain contact with external agencies to provide intervention where possible
- Check student engagement in lessons regularly and contact parents if any concerns
- Provide home literacy intervention resources for those who have literacy intervention
- Advise on IT solutions such as use of 'colourveil', alternative methods of recording, Accelerated Reader etc.
- Online safety advice personalised as required
- Use of breakout rooms in Microsoft Teams to support SEND students remotely
- Provide materials for students to use at home when required
- Students can be invited to attend school should this be needed for their learning or mental health needs
- Pre-teaching and post-teaching to embed concepts and vocabulary

This is not an exhaustive list. If you have concerns about your child and their provision please speak to the SENCO as soon as possible.

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

- Ensure that your child has a device they can use to access remote learning. If you need help with this please contact the SENCO who will support your enquiry.
- Create a quiet and calm space so they can concentrate on their learning

- Help your child to be organised; follow their timetable and provide paper and writing materials
- Talk to your child about their learning
- Encourage mindfulness and wellbeing time, including exercise outside, drinking water and healthy eating
- Limit screen time as much as possible – there is information about eye strain on the website
- Talk to your child about staying safe online and appropriate use of Teams. Further information about that can be found on the website. Parental guidance can also be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-staying-safe-online>

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. Structure and the routines outlined above will help maintain positive mental health and emotional wellbeing.

The mental health charity MIND have provided some initial information which we are happy to share.

- [Coronavirus and your wellbeing](#)
- [How can I cope with changes to school / college?](#)
- [Coronavirus and wellbeing – Young Minds](#)

Further information about wellbeing can also be found on the schools website [here](#).

If my child has an EHCP, doesn't the Local Authority have a legal duty to deliver provision?

From a legal perspective this remains the case. However, given the likely significant disruption to staffing, it may be very difficult for schools or local authorities to deliver this precisely.

The guidance says:

“Where a student has provision specified within their EHCP, it remains the duty of the local authority and any health bodies to secure or arrange the delivery of this in the setting that the plan names. However, there may be times when it becomes very difficult to do so, for example, if they are self-isolating. In this situation, decisions on how provision can be delivered should be informed by relevant considerations including, for example, the types of services that the pupil can access remotely, for example, online teaching and remote sessions with different types of therapists. These decisions should be considered on a case by case basis, avoiding a one size fits all approach.”

If you have concerns about your child and their provision please speak to the SENCO as soon as possible.

My child was due to have an Annual Review. What will happen now?

Annual Reviews will take place, although these will probably be held remotely.

My child is due to be moving to a new provision (e.g. college) in September. What will happen now?

We will contact you and your child or young person to discuss the transitional arrangements to support them into their new setting when appropriate. At the moment we do not know when this might be, due to the current lockdown. We have no further information about exam results or assessments. Please see the school website for further information about this.

A copy of the school's COVID-19 risk assessment can be found [here](#)

Current guidance:

[Restricting attendance during the national lockdown: schools](#)

[Special Schools](#)

[What parents need to know](#)