



SEND and Disabilities Policy

Covid-19 Annex

In light of Covid-19 the following update is added to the SEND policy

Attendance of Vulnerable students – During partial closure and/or in case of Tier 2 or 3 Implementation

Throughout the pandemic schools have been open for vulnerable children. Children with an EHCP are classed in this group.

Parental choice remains a part of the process and parents have the right to decline the in-school support during this time. However, if this is the case a risk assessment will be completed to ensure that all students and their families are being supported safely through this time.

Risk assessments

Students with an EHCP and students in the EHCP process will be risk assessed to support them through this time. The risk assessment will highlight the potential risks and will also highlight the reasonable actions of the Academy to reduce those risks.

On-going support – In the event of tier 2 or 3 restrictions

All SEND students at GAC will access their learning on-line with their peers. Staff from each department will analyse student need and support further where is possible and necessary. This on-going support will be reviewed in light of government guidance and will reflect both staffing levels and students needs, where appropriate.

EHCP Guidance

We endeavour to support EHCP pupils as much as is reasonably possible during this time. The government guidelines issued on the 30th April 2020 – states the following:

Section 42 of the 2014 Act requires a local authority to secure the special educational provision specified in an education, health and care (EHC) plan and for health commissioning bodies to arrange any health care provision described in a plan. It is not possible for local authorities and responsible health commissioning bodies in England fully to meet their duties under section 42 of the 2014 Act in the current situation for the following reasons:

(i) Due to the coronavirus outbreak, local authorities are experiencing reduced special educational needs and disability (SEND) staff capacity (both administrative and specialist),

which is affecting their ability to secure provision and deliver the provision specified in EHC plans. In addition, local authorities have directed some of their available staff to respond to the pressures generated by the coronavirus outbreak itself (for example, emergency planning). This is limiting the resource available to secure provision in accordance with EHC plans.

2. (ii) The current position is that children and young people with EHC plans are expected to attend education settings where it is determined, following risk assessment, that their needs can be as safely or more safely met in the educational environment. However, it may not be possible for all children and young people to attend their education settings on a full-time basis for various reasons (for example, if they are clinically extremely vulnerable, or they attend a special school that is operating an attendance rota). This means that in many cases it will still not be possible for local authorities and health commissioning bodies to continue to deliver the special educational provision and health provision that would normally be delivered in an education setting.
3. (iii) Where children and young people are attending an education setting their normal educational programme will probably be disrupted for various reasons, including the implementation of protective measures. This means that in many cases it will not be possible to deliver the special educational provision specified in EHC plans that would normally be delivered through the setting's normal educational programme (for example, through a differentiated curriculum).

(iv) The response to the outbreak has required some health commissioning bodies to redeploy some staff or re-prioritise some services to meet the immediate needs of their communities. In addition, staff absences due to the coronavirus outbreak have reduced capacity to arrange and deliver the health provision specified in EHC plans.

(e) Consideration has been given to whether there are any options available as an alternative to giving this notice, for example, whether all the provision specified in EHC plans could be delivered remotely to those children and young people who are at home and not in their usual educational setting. However, whilst remote delivery may be partially successful, it is not considered that this would represent an effective alternative for the following reasons:

1. (i) The need to redeploy specialist staff to respond to the coronavirus outbreak means that there is unlikely to be sufficient specialist staff to deliver all provision remotely.
2. (ii) The limitations of remote working may make it impossible to deliver provision in this way for all families.
3. (iii) Even if a remote equivalent were to be provided for each aspect of provision specified in an EHC plan, this would not constitute securing the provision as specified.

(f) The modification is proportionate for the following reasons:

1. (i) The modification allows local authorities and health commissioning bodies in England to adapt to the changing situation in their specific area, based on the nature

and demands of the coronavirus outbreak locally, workforce capacity and skills, and the needs of each individual with an EHC plan.

2. (ii) The modification enables local authorities and health commissioning bodies to arrange reasonable alternatives to the usual service during the coronavirus outbreak, such as by delivering therapies remotely, or using video.

In light of nationwide changes, Grace Academy Coventry endeavours to support all children to the best of their ability during this time. We will seek to communicate any changes as soon as is feasible and will ensure that all children's needs are at the forefront of our planning.

We will continue to communicate with all pupils and families regularly and we invite you to do the same if you are uncertain about anything or require extra support.

Update to EHC- TO BE ENFORCED AS OF 25TH SEPTEMBER:

The temporary changes to the law on the timescales for EHC needs assessments and plans, which give local authorities and others who contribute to the relevant processes more flexibility in responding to the demands placed on them by coronavirus (COVID-19), will expire as planned on **25 September 2020**.

Further information on the temporary changes to the law on EHC needs assessment and plan processes is available at [changes to the law on education, health and care needs assessments and plans due to coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).