



COVID-19 arrangements for SEND at The Marlbrook Teaching School Alliance

Marlbrook Primary School, St Martin's Primary School and Little Dewchurch CofE Primary School.

Date:
15/5/2020

1. Context

From 20th March 2020 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response - who absolutely need to attend.

Schools and all childcare providers were asked to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

Following Government guidance, from Thursday 4th June 2020 we are inviting parents / carers of children in our nursery, reception, year one and year six classes to send their children to school in addition to the children detailed above. All of these families have been contacted by letter informing them of the steps and procedures being taken in school as part of the COVID-19 response.

This addendum of the Marlbrook Primary School, St Martin's Primary School and Little Dewchurch CofE Primary School's SEND policy contains details of our SEND arrangements at this time.

Key contacts

Role	Name	Contact number	Email
SENCo	Sarah Rosser	01432 266643	srosser@marlbrook.hereford.sch.uk
SENCO	Lucy Cuss	Via school office 01432 273633	lcuss@st-martins.hereford.sch.uk
Executive Headteacher	Tracey Kneale	01432 266643 07809331001	tkneale@marlbrook.hereford.sch.uk
Chair of Governors	Andy Goode	07941747446	Andybgoode49@gmail.com
SEN Governor	Avril Preece	Via school office 01432 266643	Via school admin admin@marlbrook.hereford.sch.uk

Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan

Children who have an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP) have all been risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. This could include, if necessary, carers, therapists or clinicians visiting the home to provide any essential services. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home. Where a child with an EHCP is attending school the risk assessment will have included the steps that school will take to mitigate risks to the child or others for example providing alternative calming activities for a child who is struggling to emotionally regulate.

A notice from the Secretary of State for Education issued under the Coronavirus Act 2020 modifies section 42 of the Children and Families Act 2014. This temporarily relaxes the legal duty for Local Authorities to provide the provisions set out in a child's plan down to use 'reasonable endeavors' to provide what is realistic in the current circumstances.

Reviews of EHCP's can still take place however they will be conducted using Webex video conferencing rather than meeting face to face. SENCo will ensure that all invitees, including parents /carers are supported to access the technology associated with this. Similarly, applications for an EHCP where parents / carers views need to be recorded will also take place using the video conferencing medium unless parents carers wish to complete their view without SENCo support.

Children on the Special Educational Needs (SEN) / Additional Educational Needs (AEN) Register

Children on the SEN or AEN registers will be catered for in the same spirit as the EHCP children; we will make 'reasonable endeavors' to provide the support and or interventions as set out in their individual education plan (SEN children) or class provision map (AEN children).

Speech and Language Support

Our speech and language department is currently running with one full time speech and language therapy assistant (SALT-A) who is supported remotely by our speech and language therapist (SALT). Our SALT-A will be working with children who are in school and are on the speech and language caseload. The SALT-A will work with individual children, in a quiet space where the 2 metre social distance rule can be maintained. The SALT department will also be available for advice to parents/carers of children who are not in school through the school SENCo Mrs Rosser.

Referrals

Referrals to outside agencies such as CAMHS (Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services) and the Child Development Centre (CDC) may still be made however services from these agencies may be delayed or in less urgent cases postponed. These services are continuing to contact the SENCo for information about existing cases and the SENCo will liaise with class teachers and ensure that they receive the information that they need.

Supporting children not in school

At all three schools, Marlbrook, St Martin's and Little Dewchurch, we are committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all our Children and Young people.

Where the SENCo has identified a child to be vulnerable due to their SEN; for example a child with a diagnosis of autism a robust communication plan is in place for that child or young person. The SENCo will contact the family by telephone and or email regularly to check in and offer support as necessary. In some instances this may mean offering a door-step visit, sending information through the post or in the case where families are struggling, an offer of a school place for the child.

Details of these communications and actions will be recorded.

Further Information

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this policy please contact Sarah Rosser (SENCo) on 01432 266643 or email to srosser@marlbrook.hereford.sch.uk