

## Special arrangements in relation to COVID-19

### SEND children who remain at home:

Following the closure of schools from the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 Government guidelines stated:

*Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with education, health and care (EHC) plans.*

*Those with an EHC plan should be risk-assessed by their school in consultation with the local authority (LA) and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school or college 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.*

In order to ensure that our students with EHC plans are supported we have consulted families with regards to whether or not their child needs to attend school. We have ensured that the expectations for work being done at home is understood and that students can access the work being set by school staff. As a school we are undertaking weekly check ins to ensure that students outcomes are kept at the forefront and that their emotional needs are being met. Work set by class teachers takes in to account the needs of the students in their classes.

Class teachers with the support of the SENDCO and Teaching Assistants will differentiate and scaffold learning for SEND students. Bespoke work packs for SEND children relating to the outcomes on their EHC plan or SEND support plans will be sent home if they are unable to access learning via Microsoft Teams.

Heads of Year and Form Tutors are contactable on a daily basis through Microsoft Teams and continue to provide pastoral support for all SEND students.

Parents of SEND students may require our support at this time and are able to contact the school via:

Email: [enquiries@corecentral.academy](mailto:enquiries@corecentral.academy)

Telephone: 0121 7297160

Parents of SEND students are also able to contact the SENDCO directly via:

Email: [gpatel@corecentral.academy](mailto:gpatel@corecentral.academy)

We are aware that the transition period for our students with SEND has been affected by the current situation and we continue to work alongside Post 16 providers and the careers team at Central Academy to ensure that the information needed is shared. We will also

continue to work alongside our Primary colleagues to ensure that year 6 SEND students are supported and kept informed about their transition into year 7.

Resources to support our SEND students and parents during this unprecedented time have been uploaded on to the school website in the SEND section. These will continue to be updated as time passes.

External agencies will only become involved if necessary following the usual graduated response process. Annual EHC plan reviews will take place where possible following advice and guidance from local authority and external agencies. Parents/carers will be consulted regarding this process during this time. Where annual reviews are unable to take place after obtaining advice and guidance these will take place during the Autumn term 2020/2021.

**SEND children in key year groups (the previous offer shown above still applies for all SEND students who remain at home).**

Government guidance was updated on the 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020 regarding support for children and young people with SEND as schools and colleges prepare for wider opening to key year groups. From the week commencing the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 Secondary schools are expected to offer some face to face support to supplement the remote education of year 10 students. The guidance states that:

*As settings prepare for wider opening, they should continue to offer places to vulnerable children and young people and should look to bring back more children with EHC plans in these target year groups. Their return to school should be informed by their risk assessments, to help educational settings and local authorities ensure that the right support is in place for them to come back.*

*Section 42 of the Children and Families Act 2014 has been temporarily modified so that local authorities and health commissioning bodies must use their 'reasonable endeavours' to discharge the duty to secure or arrange the provisions specified in a child or young person's EHC plan.*

In order for us to ensure that our students with an EHC plan in Year 10 are prepared for their return to school we will:

Continue to review and maintain the students risk assessment and take into account parent/carer and student views so that they can be brought back into face to face education when it is right for them.

If attendance is not appropriate, assessments will be made with the support of external agencies and the local authority to inform support for home learning. We will be mindful of the need for access to respite or short breaks for families supporting students with complex needs.

Risk assessments continue to be maintained for children and young people with EHC plans who remain at home.

We will work with local authorities to consider what can reasonably be provided during this temporary period in relation to the provision specified on a student's EHC plan.

Those students with an EHC plan who are currently attending school will continue to do so.

DRAFT PENDING APPROVAL