

COVID 19 SEND Information Report



This report details how Tetney Primary School supports children and young people with Special Educational Needs and disabilities (SEND) through the government's response to COVID-19. This report coincides with the guidance from the Department of Education and will be updated accordingly.

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Coordinator (SENDCo) at
Tetney Primary School is:

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Context

The government's response to COVID-19 specifies parents to keep their children at home from 20th March 2020 wherever possible. Schools were further asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children. These children include:

- Those who are vulnerable
- Those children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response (who absolutely need to attend and cannot be safely cared for at home)

Vulnerable children and eligibility

Vulnerable children include those:

- Supported by social care or early help (ie. those with safeguarding and welfare needs, YO involvement including those on child in need and child protection plans)
- Looked after children (LAC)
- Young carers
- Disabled children and
- Children and young people with Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans.

Risk Assessments for children and young people with EHC Plans

Those with an EHC plan will be 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.

These risk assessments will consider a number of different risks to each individual, including:

- the potential health risks to the individual from COVID-19, bearing in mind any underlying health conditions. This will be on an individual basis and with advice from an appropriate health professional where required
- the risk to the individual if some or all elements of their EHC plan cannot be delivered at all, and the risk if they cannot be delivered in the normal manner or in the usual setting
- the ability of the individual's parents or home to ensure their health and care needs can be met safely
- the potential impact to the individual's wellbeing of changes to routine or the way in which provision is delivered
- the availability of appropriately trained staff (school will liaise with the local authority if a place is needed for an eligible child, but the school is unable to provide the specialist staffing for it)

The Coronavirus Act 2020 allows the Secretary of State, where appropriate, to temporarily lift the statutory duty on local authorities to maintain the precise provision in EHC plans, with local authorities needing instead to apply 'reasonable endeavours' to support these children and their families.

You can find the DfE published [new guidance on SEND risk assessments](#) here.

Safeguarding, attendance and monitoring of wellbeing

Tetney Primary School continues in its commitment to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of its children during this period of general school closure.

Where children with EHC plans take up an eligible place in school, Tetney Primary School will continue to ensure a safe space for these children to attend and flourish. The Headteacher will work alongside the SENDCo to ensure that appropriate staff, facilities and provision are available to secure a safe, appropriate and positive placement for those children. The support appropriate to each child in this circumstance will be recorded and reviewed on an individual basis. Any updates to a child's situation will be updated on their risk assessments which are then shared with the Local Authority and the Head Teacher.

Tetney Primary School will refer to the Government guidance for education and childcare settings on how to implement social distancing and continue to follow the advice from Public Health England on handwashing and other measures to limit the risk of spread of COVID-19.

Local authorities and education settings do not need to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance. Having worked with parents and other professionals to decide whether children with EHC plans will be attending school, Tetney Primary School will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to attend, who did not attend.

Where children with EHC plans do not take up a place in school and are cared for at home, an individual risk assessment will be completed and a communication plan will be put in place for the child. This will be recorded and shared with the Senior Leadership Team.

The communication plans can include; remote contact, phone contact. Other individualised contact methods should be considered and recorded.

This plan must be reviewed weekly and where concerns arise, the Head Teacher/DSL and SENDCo will consider any referrals as appropriate.

Working in partnership with parents of children and young people with SEND

Working in partnership with our parents remains central to Tetney Primary Schools' policies and practice. The views of parents and children will be considered in determining whether children with EHC plans take up an eligible place in school, as detailed in Section 2 of this addendum.

Where statutory processes relating to SEND are in action, the school will continue to maintain communication with parents of, and children with, SEND so that their views are actively sought, considered and promoted.

Monitoring children and young people's progress

Tetney Primary School recognises that assessing and reviewing children's progress will continue to be necessary for some purposes during this period of school closure. This may be for the purpose of a statutory assessment, review for a new or existing EHC plan or for other assessments being completed by external professionals. Where this is needed, key school staff will maintain communication with parents and relevant professionals to ensure children's progress is monitored where necessary.

Where children's EHC plans are due for review within the period of school closure, the school will discuss arrangements with parents, children, the Local Authority and professionals involved in the plan to decide whether arrangements for a 'remote review' should be made, or whether reviews should be postponed until it is possible to meet with all parties involved in the plan. The SENDCo will make the necessary arrangements following this decision.

Arrangements for supporting children in moving between phases of education

For children due to move between phases of education at the end of this academic year, Tetney Primary School will continue to make contact with the new setting to share necessary information to make children's transitions as smooth as possible. In situations where children with SEND would benefit from additional transition visits, every effort will be made to facilitate these where possible within DfE, PHE and government guidance.

Tetney Primary School recognises that transitions may be a particular concern for parents of children of SEND, and communication remains open for parents to contact key school staff to discuss this. We will continue to review transition arrangements in line with available DfE and government guidance on school closure.

Transitions within school

For children transferring between classes the SENDCo will continue to inform the new class teacher of the pupil's needs using electronic folders and meetings where appropriate. Additional transition work will be used where necessary to relieve any worries and doubt.

Any consultations that the school receives during this time will be responded to within the designated timescales unless illness prevents this.