



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy ADDENDUM

in light of Covid-19 outbreak changes to Education and
School practices

Godmanchester Community Academy

April 2020

Together We

Inspire Enjoy Achieve

Godmanchester Community Academy remains wholly committed to meeting the needs of pupils with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) during the Covid-19 outbreak and whilst the changes in educational provision that we can provide are in place.

In line with changes in Government guidance we recognise that we need to make our 'best endeavours' to continue to meet the needs of pupils with SEND as fully as we are able to during this time.

We have therefore put in place the following provision or processes to support our most vulnerable pupils with SEND:

- Placement in school remains available for pupils who would be at significant risk if their EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan) and school routine did not continue
- Weekly 'check in' phone calls or contact for the parents of pupils with EHCPs who are not accessing school, to be aware of their wellbeing and organise follow-up support with SEND needs as far as is reasonably possible and appropriate
- Continuation of 'virtual' EHCP Annual Review Meetings via parents and staff collaboration to ensure statutory paperwork is completed as far as is possible and appropriate
- Emailing resources, provision and support information to parents of pupils with SEND, where appropriate, to support their specific needs, throughout our distance learning provision

EHCP outcomes and ongoing provision

We recognise, in line with Government guidance, that our ability to meet the outcomes detailed in many of the EHCP's of our pupils is very limited at this time, but we aim to provide them with an additional level of social, emotional and well-being support via a clear point of contact for them and their family throughout the school closure period. We have also compiled and shared information about wellbeing support that can be accessed online and by the phone.

Government guidance on SEND provision, that was compiled by Cambridgeshire Local Authority, has been shared with all families of pupils with an EHCP and this is attached with this addendum.

EHCP pupils attending school

Due to Government guidance on social distancing and staff and pupil wellbeing, any student with an EHCP that attends school and usually has one to one support will not have access to this at this time. This is to protect everyone.

All staff on site are made aware of pupil's specific SEND and support needs. The 'Teams' application stores specific APDRos relating to SEND pupils and staff are able to access this at all times. The SENCo is also available via e-mail and/or phone if not on site for any queries relating to pupils with SEND. All staff that are in school will endeavour to support pupils SEND needs as fully as they are able to within the limitations of the provision that the school is able to provide.

Where possible we will endeavour to ensure that pupils who are continuing to attend school attend primarily in our school setting. However, there may be times where we are unable to continue to open as a setting, so therefore, we will try to arrange an appropriate alternative setting for them to attend.

Other areas of SEND provision

All other areas of SEND provision and processes, such as EHC needs assessment requests, referrals to SEND or external services, or the compilation of APDR (Assess, Plan, Do, Review) paperwork will cease during this period of closure and be resumed once normal school processes are returned. This will also include the writing of new Early Help Assessments (EHA) unless there is a significant risk.

This addendum relates wholly to the period of school closure and Government guidance in relation to the Covid-19 outbreak and will cease to be in place once normal school provision has returned and/ or Government guidance in relation to SEND provision is updated.

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Written by: Victoria Stanley, SENCo, adapted from Hinchingsbrooke School.