



Turner Free School

SEND Information Report: Covid-19 Appendices

In light of the current Covid-19 pandemic, this document forms an Appendix to our existing SEND Information Report, setting out the arrangements to support our children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and those with Education, Health and Care Plans. At Turner Free School we will continue to fulfil our duty to these children and their families, undertaking to use our best endeavours under challenging circumstances to ensure that they are appropriately supported and their education, social, emotional and wellbeing needs are met to the best of our ability. We will seek support from the Local Authority to do so as required and will continue to work closely with external professionals to ensure positive outcomes for our children.

The situation in which we find ourselves is fast-moving; as such, please note that this report is based on information available at the time of writing and is subject to change.

Special arrangements in relation to COVID-19.

Following the closure of schools from the 23rd 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 pupils with an EHCP 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 pupils can access the work being set by school staff. As a school we undertake at least weekly check ins to ensure that pupils outcomes are kept at the forefront and that their emotional needs are being met. Throughout these calls, scholars and their parents will be able to discuss any concerns they may have, and access personalised support with their learning, as necessary. Teaching staff and Pastoral Leaders will also be in contact regularly to provide encouragement and support.

During this time, scholars will be provided with online learning for every lesson. These lessons are accessed via the scholars' Google Classroom. All lessons are pre-recorded, or pre-prepared, with teachers narrating their instructions to support learning. This also enables scholars to work at their own pace, with the ability to return back to key explanations or instructions as necessary. All work is scaffolded in order to ensure accessibility. In addition, teachers and pastoral staff are available each day and can be contacted for support by email, or via the Google Classrooms.

Please contact the SEND Team should you require any additional information or support -
TFSENDCo@turnerschools.com

Temporary notices issued in relation to SEND Provision:

On 1st May 2020 some aspects of the law on education, health and care needs assessments and plans were changed temporarily by central government in order to give local authorities and education settings more flexibility in responding to the demands placed on them by COVID-19. This included the following guidance:



a) A notice from the Secretary of State for Education issued under the Coronavirus Act 2020 to modify section 42 of the Children and Families Act 2014 (duty to secure special educational provision and health care provision in accordance with EHC plan). The duty on local authorities or health commissioning bodies to secure or arrange the provision is temporarily modified to a duty to use 'reasonable endeavours' to do so.

b) The Special Educational Needs and Disability (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020. This temporarily amends 4 sets of Regulations that specify timescales that apply to local authorities, health commissioning bodies and others: principally for various processes relating to EHC needs assessments and plans. Where it is not reasonably practicable or is impractical to meet that time limit for a reason relating to the incidence or transmission of coronavirus, the specific time limit (such as to issue a plan to someone eligible for one within 20 weeks of the initial request) in the regulations being amended will not apply. Instead, the local authority or other body to whom that time limit applies will have to complete the process as soon as reasonably practicable or in line with any other timing requirement in any of the regulations being amended.

This guidance also states the key elements of the processes linked to EHCPs that remain unchanged. These include that a local authority must:

- still consider requests for a new EHC needs assessment
- still secure all of the required advice and information in order to be able to issue a plan
- have regard to the views and wishes of a child, the child's parent or a young person when carrying out its SEND functions under the Children and Families Act 2014 ('the 2014 Act')

In summary, timelines for the local authority are currently suspended until 25th September 2020 and therefore whilst the processes linked to EHCPs have not stopped, it can take longer than the stated statutory timescales to achieve milestones within the process. In addition, the absolute duty to provide provision outlined in section F of the EHCP is reduced to a reasonable endeavour. This latter change is currently in place until the end of June 2020 but it remains likely that it will be extended with a further notice from the government.

Additional Arrangement from 15th June 2020:

From the week commencing 15th June 2020, the government announced plans for a phased return of some children to secondary school. At Turner Free School, the children this impacts are as follows:

- Vulnerable children, including those with EHCPs, open to social services, children in care and other children considered by the pastoral support team to be at risk or more vulnerable during school closures, as well as children of key workers.

Turner Free School will be open to this group from 15th June 2020.

For children who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), attendance is expected where it is determined, following a risk assessment, that their needs can be as safely or more safely met in the educational environment than by remaining at home. In order to ensure that our pupils with EHCPs are supported we have continued to consult families with regards to whether or not their child needs to attend school, taking into account support at home and the possible provision available in school. All decisions have been documented in risk assessments first written at the start of lockdown and continually reviewed after every government update. Copies of all risk assessments have been



shared with the Principal. These decisions will also be documented on children's end of year review documentation, which will be included in the next Annual Review of an individual child's EHCP.

If it is determined that the needs of a child with an EHCP or on the SEND register can be safely met in school, Turner Free School will provide the following during Term 6:

- Children will be taught in 'bubbles' with a small group of no more than 12 of their peers.
- Additional adult support from the SEND team will be deployed where needed, with some children with an EHCP or on the SEND register taught in smaller 'bubbles' or receiving additional adult support within a larger 'bubble' of peers. This will be determined on a case by case basis in conjunction with parents and the SENDCo in order to best support the needs of the individual child.
- Children will have access to the curriculum through planned lessons, set by class teachers, which take into account the needs of the children.
- Children will have access to activities linked to the outcomes on their EHCP where it is possible to provide these safely and the availability of appropriate adults allows us to do so.
- Children will have access to visual supports where appropriate including social stories to help them prepare for the altered rules and school environment.
- Children will have access to resources such as coloured overlays, ear defenders and other appropriate equipment if required. Sharing and cleaning of these resources will be carefully considered and undertaken by adults within the setting.
- Children will have access to technology where appropriate, such as laptops and iPads.
- Children will be prepared carefully via email and/or telephone call for their return to school. They will have the opportunity to discuss their concerns prior to returning and throughout their time at school.
- Due to staffing capacity all other in school provisions will not be possible at this time.
- Counselling support will continue to be offered remotely if appropriate. Decisions regarding this will be made between parents, the SENDCo and DSL and will need to factor in a child's age and the appropriateness of the home environment. Children attending school can still access this service out of school hours if deemed appropriate, but the counsellor will be unable to support on site.

The home learning offer (via Google Classroom) still applies to SEND children or those with EHCPs who remain at home.

At Turner Free School, we are very aware that school closures are likely to have had a negative impact on the progress of our SEND children and those with EHCPs in the longer term, both in terms of social, emotional and mental health but also academically in terms of their learning and progress. As such we are doing and will continue to do the following to support these children:

- Bespoke daily routines and timetables will be created for individual children who are struggling to adapt to home learning.
- Project work designed to continue to develop areas that a pupil struggles with will be set alongside the curriculum subject work set on Google Classroom.
- The SEND team will provide weekly and in some instances daily check ins to support learning online as well as the pupil's emotional and mental well-being. This also extends to other members of the household where appropriate.
- Teaching Assistants have access to the Google Classroom for the pupils they would normally support in class. Support can be offered to the pupils when completing assignments. Teaching staff are also being guided on resources and changes that can be made to help the



online curriculum become more accessible for all. If and when required, Teaching Assistants will liaise with the class teacher on behalf of the pupil.

- Some pupils are being offered a phased return to school approach to help build their confidence and familiarity with the school setting.
- Opportunities have been created for pupils to meet online in a group so that they can share their emotions and questions via a Pastoral Classroom.
- Careful analysis, research and planning is being done so that pupils with SEND can return to school with confidence knowing that they will get the support they need. This includes the writing of a new SEND handbook for classroom teachers that will be shared before September. This will support planning for pupils with SEND and assist in tackling the gaps in learning that will have occurred through the past months. Finally, provision and resources are being considered so that no one gets left behind.

We are also aware that the transition period for our pupils with SEND has been greatly affected by the current situation and we continue to work and communicate closely with our primary feeder schools to ensure that the information needed is shared. This also includes external professionals such as Early Help. We will keep you informed as to any other transition opportunities that might be available as the summer term continues.

Turner Free School continues to work closely with external professionals where circumstances allow, and we continue to access support and advice for our pupils through Specialist Teaching and Learning Services located at The Beacon. External agencies will only become involved, following the usual graduated response processes detailed in our main SEND Information Report.

Accessing Support

Parents of SEND pupils or those with an EHCP may require additional support during school closures and following the partial reopening of school. Additional and/or tailored resources to support our pupils' SEND needs during these unprecedented times are available should you need them – if you would like support, resources or tailored advice please contact our SEND team who will be able to offer advice and support.

Should parents need to contact the SEND team during this time to seek support or advice, they can do so by emailing the following address:

TFSSENDCo@turnerschools.com

This email will be received by the following staff who will then triage your email and respond accordingly:

SENDCo - Miss Carrie Baker
Assistant SENDCo - Mr Nick Brooks

Alternatively please telephone the main academy number ([01303 842400](tel:01303842400)) and leave a message with the receptionist requesting a call back from the SEND team.