

**NJA Special Educational Needs & Disability Policy  
Updates related to the COVID-19 pandemic - May 2020**

**Legislation and Guidance**

This policy complies with the statutory requirement laid out in the SEND Code of Practice 0 - 25 (July 2014) 3.65 and has been written with reference to the following guidance:

- Coronavirus Act 2020
- Equality Act 2010 - Advice for schools DfE Feb 2013
- SEND Code of Practice 0-25 (July 2014)
- Schools SEN Information Report Regulations (2014)
- Statutory Guidance on Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions (April 2014)
- The National Curriculum in England: framework for KS1 and 2 (July 2014)
- Safeguarding Policy
- Accessibility Plan
- Teachers Standards 2012

**Coronavirus Act 2020**

In these circumstances, staff need to increase their level of self-protection, such as minimising close contact and having more frequent hand-washing and other hygiene measures, and regular cleaning of surfaces. We recommend that educational settings follow the Public Health England guidance on cleaning in non-healthcare settings.

Fortnightly provision monitoring forms will be put in place for those children currently on an EHCP. This includes where adjustments have been made to their current EHCP and the actions taken as well as a 'live' risk assessment of needs. These are shared with parents, carers and the Local Authority.

The school may continue to make reasonable adjustments in order to protect the health and safety of all children and staff.

**Changes to the law regarding Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan under the Coronavirus Act 2020**

Firstly, under the Coronavirus Act 2020, we understand that we must now use our reasonable endeavours to secure the provision set out within a child or young person's EHC plan. This means that we will consider, for each child with an EHC plan, what they need to provide during the period of lockdown. This may result in a child's provision being different from that which is set out in their EHC plan, but we will still seek to support the needs of the child in the new circumstances we find ourselves in. For example, we will continue to offer support virtually rather than face to face including weekly phone calls from the SENDCO to offer support to both the child and their immediate carers. This legal change will be in force from 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020 and may be extended.

At Normanton Junior Academy, our aim is that, during this difficult period, as far as practicable, EHC processes continue so that children and young people still get help and support whilst accepting

that this may have to be done differently. We will endeavour to maintain education, health and care provision for vulnerable children, and also to extend extra support, where possible, to families in most need - recognising that home isolation is extremely hard for many children and young people with SEND and their families.

In line with the Coronavirus Act 2020, we will work with families and the child to carry out an individual risk assessment to judge whether the child or young person's needs can be more safely met at home or at their educational setting. We recognise that some children may be better off with the greater continuity and structure that education brings and that some of those with the most complex needs may need access to support that cannot be provided at home.

Appendix added **May 2020**