



SEND and special arrangements in relation to Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Current government guidelines state that as part of the response to coronavirus (COVID-19), educational settings have been asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children and young people including:

- Those who are vulnerable
- Those whose parents/carers are critical workers/key workers

All other pupils should not attend and should learn remotely until February half term.

Guidance on critical workers and vulnerable children can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

The government believes that receiving face-to-face education is best for children's mental health and educational achievement, and they will continue to review the restrictions on schools to ensure that children and young people return to face-to-face education as soon as possible.

Limiting attendance does not suggest that schools have become significantly less safe, instead limiting attendance is about supporting the reduction of the overall number of social contacts in our communities.

For vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers, who should still attend school, as they did in March to July, the system of protective measures means that any risks are well managed and controlled.

During the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, vulnerable children and young people are defined as those who:

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

- Are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child.
- Have an education, health and care (EHC) plan.
- Have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
 - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services
 - adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
 - those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
 - those living in temporary accommodation
 - those who are young carers
 - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)

- care leavers
- others at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health

Schools are expected to allow and strongly encourage vulnerable children and young people to attend. Parents/carers of vulnerable children and young people are strongly encouraged to take up the place.

For pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, St Margaret's CE Junior School will work to ensure that needs can be met as effectively as possible so that children continue to make progress even if they are not able to be in school for any reason. There is a requirement for schools to use their 'best endeavours' to ensure that the provision to meet the pupils' special educational need(s) remains in place throughout this difficult period.

We will work collaboratively with families, putting in place reasonable adjustments as necessary, so that our pupils with SEND can successfully access remote learning. We recognise that some pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities may not be able to access remote education without adult support and we will work with you to deliver a programme of learning that is appropriate for your child's level of need. As a school we are undertaking 'check-ins' to ensure that pupil outcomes remain an important area of our focus. This also helps us to ensure the wellbeing of our pupils, which remains a priority. Work set by our staff takes account of a child's individual needs and may be 'open-ended' in nature to allow the children to engage with and further their own learning.

Where a child has provision specified within their Education Health and Care plan, it remains the duty of the local authority and any health bodies to secure or arrange the delivery of this in the setting that the plan names as far as this is possible. However, there may be times when it becomes difficult to do so (E.g. Self-isolation/shielding). In this situation, both pupil learning programmes and access to support for SEND will be considered on a case by case basis and will be dependent upon access to services, current restrictions and individual circumstances.

We are aware that parents/carers of SEND pupils may also require our support at this time and we are happy for you to contact us through our usual channels of communication (email or telephone/text message) where we can offer our support. At St Margaret's CE Junior School, we are committed to using our 'best endeavours' to support everyone in our school community, whatever their needs.