

**Old Moat Primary School
Education Health Care Plans
Special arrangements in relation to COVID-19.**

Context:

From 5th January 2021 parents were asked to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response - who absolutely need to attend.

Schools and all childcare providers were asked to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

Parents of SEND pupils may require our support at this time. Parents can contact the school directly to talk to or leave a message for the class teacher who will & to reply to the message within 48 hours. The SENDCO can be reached at school on **0161 445 4208** or via email at kmcnicholas@oldmoat.manchester.sch.uk.

This addendum of the Old Moat School SEND Information Report and Policy contains details of our individual arrangements and changes to our usual mode of working.

Safeguarding, attendance and monitoring of wellbeing

Old Moat 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, Old Moat Primary School will continue to ensure a safe space for these children to attend and flourish. The Headteachers 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 Senior Management Team.

Old Moat 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 COVID19.

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, Old Moat Primary School will then follow up on any pupil that they were expecting to 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 minimum of a weekly contact will be arranged with the family. Risk assessments for each pupil which are shared with the Senior Leadership Team and the Local Authority.

For children with SEND, but without an EHC plan, who have not been offered a place in school, contact details for key staff will always be available on the school website. This will ensure that parents of children with SEND will always have a way of contacting and communicating with school staff where needed.

Arrangements for consulting parents of, and children with, SEND

Working in partnership with children with SEND and their parents continues to be central to Old Moat Primary School's policies and practice.

In order to ensure that our pupils with EHC plans are supported we have consulted families with regards to whether 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 are undertaking weekly check ins to ensure that pupils outcomes are kept at the forefront and that their emotional needs are being met. Work set by class teachers takes in to account the needs of the pupils in their classes and is open-ended in nature to allow pupils to engage with and further their own learning.

For children with SEND, but without an EHC plan, signposts will be included within year group home learning to support them in accessing appropriate learning activities. School staff will also be mindful of the availability of support and resources when setting accessible home learning for children with SEND.

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.

Arrangements for assessing and reviewing children's progress

Old Moat Primary School recognises that assessments and reviews of children's progress will continue to be necessary for some purposes during this period of school closure, mainly for the purpose of statutory assessment and review for new or existing EHC plans and for other assessments being completed by external professionals, for example community paediatricians.

Where this is needed, key school staff will maintain communication with parents and relevant professionals to share, with necessary consents, the most current assessment information and professional observations that the school holds.

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

We are aware that the transition period for our pupils with SEND has been greatly affected by the current situation and we continue to work alongside our pre-school nursery and secondary colleagues to ensure that the information needed is shared. As the summer term progresses, we will begin to send out transition style material that will offer further support for our pupils at this transitional time.

Old Moat Primary School's approach to supporting children with transition will continue to be reviewed in line with all available DfE and government guidance on school closure.

Transitions within school

For children transferring between classes school staff will have transition meetings with the children's previous teacher and the SENDCo will be involved to inform the new class teacher of the pupil's

needs. Additional transition work will be used where necessary to relieve any worries and doubt. New class social stories can be sent home to support with the changes if appropriate.

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

The approach to teaching children with SEND

Old Moat Primary School recognises that children with SEND need access to home learning resources and activities which take account of their strengths and needs.

For children with SEND, but without an EHC plan, signposts will be included within year group home learning to support them in accessing appropriate learning activities. School staff will also be mindful of the availability of support and resources when setting accessible home learning for children with SEND.

Staff are continuing to set work via Purple Mash for all our pupils, including those with SEND. The school website will include contact details so that, should parents of children with SEND need to contact a member of school staff for additional support or guidance for home learning, they can do so.

Support for social and emotional development

Old Moat Primary School understands that children's social and emotional development is particularly at risk within the current national climate and period of school closure.

Regular contact between school staff and parents/children will be central to identifying when additional support may be needed. Where concerns are raised or are apparent within these communications, the child's risk assessment will be reviewed by key school staff and appropriate action and onward referrals considered.

For all parents, they can contact school to talk to the Family Support Worker, Mrs Walsh or any other member of the Inclusion Team.

Old Moat Primary School will signpost parents to other professionals who may be able to support them and their children at this time. The school will also share parent and child-friendly leaflets with links to mental health and wellbeing services and agencies for those who require it.

Working alongside other professionals

Old Moat Primary School will continue to maintain contact with other professionals during this period of school closure. This will particularly include liaison with the Speech and Language Therapists and Catalyst Educational Psychology Service.

The SENDCo holds contact details for external professionals already working with children with SEND including health and social care staff and will maintain both planned contacts and referrals of arising need. Contact details for the SENDCo and key school staff are available via the school website should professionals need to make contact.

Review

This addendum to the information report will be reviewed considering new government guidance as and when it is published.