

SEND Specialist Arrangements during COVID-19

Following the closure of schools from the 4th January, Government guidelines stated:

During the period of national lockdown, primary, secondary, alternative provision and special schools will remain open to vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers only (recognising that the characteristics of the cohorts in special schools and alternative provision will mean these settings continue to offer face-to-face provision for all pupils, where appropriate). All other pupils should receive remote education.

The definition of vulnerable children and young people includes children who have a social worker, an education, health and care plan (EHCP) or who may be vulnerable for another reason at local discretion (“otherwise vulnerable”).

The government have advised schools to allow and strongly encourage vulnerable children and young people to attend along with advising parents/carers of vulnerable children and young people to take up their allocated place.

We have therefore made sure that we have offered places to those children that we deem to fit under that definition.

For those children who have not taken up their places, 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 pupil’s outcomes are kept at the forefront and that their emotional needs are being met.

We have made sure that 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.

Alongside work being set, those children who have EHCP’s that are staying at home will be given resources to help meet their outcomes set out in their EHCP.

We also realise that parents of SEND pupils may require our support at this time and the messaging facility on SeeSaw allows for private conversations to be had between staff and parents. If further support is needed, the SENCo can be reached at sendco@longlands.sat.coop or by phone on 01630 652 312.

Resources that support our pupils’ learning, emotional, and social development during this unprecedented time have been sent to parents. These will continue to be updated as time passes.

External agencies will only become involved if necessary following consultation with families and staff.