

23 March 2020

Update for parents & carers of students with EHCPs

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope you are well and are adjusting, as we all are, to the exceptional circumstances we find ourselves in. I am writing to you as your child has an EHCP and you will understandably have some questions about how we will be supporting them during the period they will be working from home.

Firstly, I wanted to reassure you that our utmost priority in all decisions we are taking is the health and wellbeing of your child and your wider family. For the vast majority of you that will mean staying at home and following all of the other advice that has been issued by the government (more details

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>).

The most recent advice we have received from the government as of last night is that the assumption should be that young people should stay at home, **unless there is a compelling reason that it would not be safe for them to do so**. In the Education Secretary's own words: "Those who can stay at home, should stay at home". Therefore, we are encouraging most of you to follow this advice and keep your child at home until further notice. My team will be in contact with you later today to confirm our specific advice relating to your child.

I have compiled some FAQs which should hopefully answer the most common questions you might have.

What support will my child receive if they attend school?

In line with government advice we are running a skeleton staff structure at school. This means that there will only be enough adults in the building every day to keep the young people safe and cared for.

We will not be able to provide 1-1 support for your child at school during this period and will not be able to ensure that their keyworker TA or teacher is in school with them. There will however be a member of the Inclusion management team on site every day.

The timetable in school will mirror that which we are recommending at home:

Session	Time
AM session 1	9:00am – 10:00am
AM Break	10:10am – 10:30am
AM session 2	10:30am – 11:30am
Tutorial – Reading	11:30am – 12:00pm
Lunch	12:00pm – 12:30pm
PM session 1	12:30pm – 1:30pm
PM Break	1:30pm – 2:00pm
PM session 2	2:00pm – 3:00pm

Students will not be taught directly during the sessions but will be supervised using chromebooks to access the work as they would at home.

During break and lunch times they will have access to social areas. Students should bring their own snacks for break, however, lunch will be provided for those who access free school meals.

What support will my child receive to access KAA@home?

Your child's keyworker will be in touch with you shortly, if they have not done so already, to discuss how they plan to specifically support your child. Generally, the keyworker's role will be to support you to develop a routine for your child at home.

How we are recommending this is done is through daily "check-ins" at a set time with your child through Google Meet, which is an online video chat platform. The keyworker can help your child to plan their day effectively, provide motivation and also use the tutorial slot in the middle of the day to provide specific 1-1 support on some work they are struggling with.

Not all young people will need the level of support outlined above and we will be responsive to your specific requests and needs.

It is important to develop good communication links with your child's keyworker and we encourage regular communication throughout the week.

Please note that in order to balance workloads, your child's KAA@home keyworker may not be their regular keyworker. They will, however, be a familiar adult that we hope your child will be comfortable with.

For safeguarding purposes, video conferences between keyworkers and young people will be recorded and stored securely on the school's server. Please support us with this in conversations with your child.

All the information you need to know about how to set up KAA@home with your child can be found here:

<https://kaa.org.uk/students-parents/covid-19-parent-updates/>

If I am struggling with my child at home, who can I contact for support?

We can appreciate that as the parent of a young person with SEN there will be additional difficulties you may face educating your child from home. A member of the SEN senior team is always available during school hours to offer advice or suggest some strategies:

Name	Position	Email	Tel
Niall Dumigan	Assistant Principal	n.dumigan@kaa.org.uk	07506834097
Eleanor Hatchett	SENCO	e.hatchett@kaa.org.uk	
Adam Grace	Deputy SENCO	a.grace@kaa.org.uk	07590837709
Jenny Donaldson	Head of Grandin	j.donaldson@kaa.org.uk	
Peter Duncan	Deputy Head of Grandin	p.duncan@kaa.org.uk	



Will my child still access SALT/OT/Therapy support as outlined in the EHCP?

While we do not manage these therapies directly, we have been advised that the majority of therapeutic interventions will not be going ahead until further notice. No SALT or OT professionals will be on-site during the closure period. If circumstances allow, external therapists may also trial telephone or video consultations with students. If we hear any more on this we will let you know.

Will my child still have their annual review?

Yes. We are hoping that the majority of annual reviews will be able to go ahead using video conferencing software. A member of the SEN senior team will be in touch with you to arrange this.

For more complex reviews where a range of other professionals are expected to attend, it is likely we will postpone until the school has reopened.

How do I talk to my child about the coronavirus?

We understand that this is a stressful and worrying time for everyone. Often young people struggle to cope when the structures and routines they are used to are changed suddenly. They may be confused about what is happening, why, and what they should be doing to help. There are some excellent resources in the document I have attached which might support any conversations you are having with your child about the situation. This work is something that your child's keyworker would also be happy to support with, please just let them know.

Please do reach out if there is any other support we can offer at the moment. I look forward to being able to see all of you in person again before long.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Dumigan'.

Niall Dumigan
Assistant Principal - Inclusion