



## **Addendum to St Anne's Catholic Voluntary Academy SEND Information**

- Please read in conjunction with the SEND Information Report 2020-2021
- This addendum applies during the period of school closure to prevent the spread of COVID-19 coronavirus
- It takes into account all government/DofE guidelines, advice from NASEN (National Association of Special Educational Needs) and advice from St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi Academy Trust.

### **General Principles**

During the period of school closures, the curriculum and learning was adapted for effective and meaningful distance learning for all pupils. Work was set via Dojo/Century/Oak Academy; this continues to be the case if children are isolating. Teachers continued to differentiate work to match a child's needs and will make reasonable adjustments when possible.

### **Support and advice for pupils and parents/carers**

The school recognises the challenges faced by parents in supporting the needs of their children whilst they are/were learning at home and we have offered/are available to offer individual support and guidance in the following ways:

- Contact with individual teachers via dojo/telephone
- Contact with pupil's support assistants
- Contact with school by email

### **Risk assessment of pupils with an EHC plan**

The Academy's Risk assessment has been carried out by the SENCO and submitted to Derbyshire Local Authority. The Risk Assessment is not fixed; it is inevitably impacted by any changes in circumstances such as staffing or environment and so will require ongoing consideration, at least every six weeks. Review will take into account the views of parents, pupils and staff at the school.

### **Emergency legislation and protection for pupils with SEND**

The emergency legislation (Coronavirus Bill) will 'relax' the Children and Families Act in relation to 'named schools' on Education, Health and Care plans (EHCP), but in general the legal protections around the nature and level of provision remain.

Those delivering EHCP provision will be required to use the reasonable endeavours to do so. Meeting the letter of existing EHCPs may be difficult in the current context, however those involved in meeting the needs of the pupils with EHCPs in their settings should maintain the spirit of individual EHCPs to the greatest extent practicable in these challenging circumstances.

Schedule 16 of the bill would give DoFE powers to change the legal protection in relation to the nature and level of provision delivered via an EHCP Plan (Section 42, Children and Families Act 2014) on a rolling monthly basis. The bill gives DoFE the power to dis-apply the requirement for local authorities to review the plan at least annually under Section 44(1) Children and Families Act 2014.

Disabled children remain protected by the Equality Act and Public Sector Equality Duty.

### **Completing annual reviews**

During school closures, annual reviews were completed online via Microsoft Teams. Now schools have re-opened, for the safety of all parties, Teams meetings will continue to replace face to face annual reviews, unless it is

absolutely necessary to meet in person. At St Anne' CVA, this will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and in consultation with parents/carers.

#### Page 4- **Teaching Assistant support**

- In class whilst working closely with pupils teaching assistants will wear visors in accordance with the department and whole school risk assessment.
- Additional areas around the school have been identified where pupils can work in groups supervised by a teaching assistant.
- Whilst SEN pupils are working in small groups out of the classroom, they will continue to sit with desks facing forward.
- All of the above SEN arrangements are organised with regards to the whole school risk assessment and individual EHCP risk assessments.

#### Page 7- **Specialist Services**

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is limiting the level of service that can be provided by outside agencies (such as educational psychologist, SaLT, MAAT, Healthy Young Minds) who provide advice and information for SEN pupils. Referrals are still being accepted but there are delays due to services trying to 'catch-up' on prior referrals. Services are currently only attending in school where unavoidable and meetings are being held on virtual platforms.

#### Page 9 **Parents**

We continue to encourage the effective communication with parents and the department through letters, emails, telephone calls and through Class Dojo. Currently face-to-face meetings with parents are not possible in accordance with the whole school risk assessment unless there are exceptional circumstances. In those cases, the head teacher will make a decision as to whether a face-to-face meeting is essential.

Annual review procedures will continue to take place for pupils with EHCPs and GRIP funding. Meetings will be arranged via a virtual platform.