

# HINCHINGBROOKE SCHOOL

*Inspiring Excellence   Fulfilling Potential   Developing Character*



## Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy **ADDENDUM** in light of Covid-19 outbreak changes to Education and School practices

Hinchingbrooke School remains wholly committed to meeting the needs of students with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) during the Covid-19 outbreak and whilst the changes in educational provision that we can provide are in place.

In line with changes in Government guidance we recognise that we need to make our **'best endeavours'** to continue to meet the needs of students with SEND as fully as we are able to during this time.

We have therefore put in place the following provision or processes to support our most vulnerable students with SEND:

- Placement in school remains available for students who would be at significant risk if their EHCP (education, health and care provision) and school routine did not continue
- Weekly 'check in' phone calls or contact for SEND students who are not accessing school to be aware of their wellbeing and organise follow up support with SEND needs as far as is reasonably possible and appropriate
- Continuation of 'virtual' EHCP Annual Review Meetings via parents and staff collaboration to ensure statutory paperwork is completed as far as is possible and appropriate
- Emailing, posting or signposting to resources, provision and support information to students with SEND, where appropriate, to support their specific needs, throughout our distance learning provision

### EHCP outcomes and ongoing provision

We recognise, in line with Government guidance, that our ability to meet the outcomes detailed in many of the EHCP's of our students is very limited at this time, but we aim to provide them with an additional level of social, emotional and well being support via a clear point of contact for them and their family throughout the school closure period. We have also compiled and shared information about wellbeing support that can be accessed online and by the phone.

Government guidance on SEND provision, that was compiled by Cambridgeshire Local Authority, has been shared with all families of students with an EHCP and this is attached with this addendum.

### EHCP students attending school

Due to Government guidance on social distancing and staff and student wellbeing any student with an EHCP that attends school and usually has one to one support will not have access to this at this time.

All staff on site are made aware of student's specific SEND and support needs by having access to their Pen Portrait which details this information. Pen Portraits are stored on SharePoint and accessible by staff at all times, as well as being emailed out to staff prior to full school closure. Parents are invited to make changes to Pen Portraits, as they feel appropriate, if their child is attending school whilst social distancing guidance remains in place.

All staff that are in school will endeavour to support students SEND needs, as detailed on the Pen Portrait, as fully as they are able to within the limitations of the provision that the school is able to provide.

Wherever possible we will endeavour to ensure that students who are continuing to attend school attend primarily in our school setting. However, there may be times where we are unable to continue to open as a setting, so therefore, we will try to arrange an appropriate alternative setting for them to attend.

### Other areas of SEND provision

All other areas of SEND provision and processes, such as applications for EHCP's, the writing of EHA's (Early Help Assessments), referrals to SEND or external services, or the compilation of APDR (Assess, Plan, Do, Review) paperwork will cease during this period of closure and be resumed once normal school processes are returned.

This addendum relates wholly to the period of school closure and Government guidance in relation to the Covid-19 outbreak and will cease to be in place once normal school provision has returned and/ or Government guidance in relation to SEND provision is updated.

Date of writing addendum: 30.03.2020

Written by: Rebecca Bierton, Director of SEND

Approved by Governors: 02.04.2020

