**Buttercup Primary School**

**SEN-D COVID-19 Addendum – June 2020**

The Department for Education’s (DfE’s) definition of ‘vulnerable children’ includes children and young people who have an Educational and Health Care Plan (EHC plan) up to the age of 25. We will continue to have regard to the statutory safeguarding guidance, [Keeping Children Safe in Education](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2) and [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-law-on-education-health-and-care-needs-](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-law-on-education-health-and-care-needs-assessments-and-plans-due-to-coronavirus) [assessments-and-plans-due-to-coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-law-on-education-health-and-care-needs-assessments-and-plans-due-to-coronavirus)

The Coronavirus Act 2020 allows the Secretary of State, where appropriate, to temporarily lift the statutory duty on local authorities to maintain the precise provision in EHC plans, with local authorities needing instead to apply ‘reasonable endeavours’ to support these children and their families.

## Safeguarding

We want children to be in school, if safe to do so. Careful consideration must be taken for each individual child’s needs and capacity to follow new rules, particularly in regards to our adaption of social distancing rules whilst in school. For some children this may be difficult for them to conform. We must safeguard everyone as much as possible, therefore, if we consider that a child would not be able to adjust to the new rules safely we will ask parents to contemplate that the child stays at home and we will continue to support the child and parent/carer remotely. Where children with EHC plans take up an eligible place in school, we will endeavour to ensure a safe space for these children to attend and flourish. If we are concerned that a child is at risk of significant harm or in immediate danger, we will follow our Safeguarding and Child protections procedures.

The school will share safeguarding links and advice on its website.

**Risk Assessment**

Those with an EHC plan will be risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered a school place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home.

Risk assessments will also consider:

* the potential health risks to the individual from COVID-19, bearing in mind any underlying health conditions. This will be on an individual basis and with advice from an appropriate health professional where required.
* the risk to the individual if some or all elements of their EHC plan cannot be delivered at all, and the risk if they cannot be delivered in the normal manner or in the usual setting the ability of the

individual’s parents or home to ensure their health and care needs can be met safely.

* the potential impact to the individual’s wellbeing of changes to routine or the way in which

provision is delivered.

* the availability of appropriately trained staff (school will liaise with the local authority if a place is needed for an eligible child, but the school is unable to provide the specialist staffing for them).

## Support for social and emotional development

Buttercup Primary School understands that children’s social and emotional development is particularly at risk within the current national climate and period of school closure. Individual risk assessments for children with EHC plans will consider

children’s social and emotional development and will ensure that contact plans are in place to enable at least fortnightly review. 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 the SENCO and Assistant SENCo and appropriate action and onward referrals considered.

Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely be supported at home. This could be for various reasons, including because:

* they do not need irreplaceable care or health provision
* the services they most need can be moved from their educational setting into their home
* their parents can meet their needs full-time
* they are able to follow hygiene and social distancing practices at home
* due to their health vulnerabilities, they are safer in the more stringent social distancing environment of their home

# Arrangements for assessing and reviewing children’s progress

Buttercup 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. This could be for the purpose of statutory assessment, to review existing EHC plans and for other assessments being completed by external professionals, for example community pediatricians.

Where this is required, the SENCO will maintain communication with parents and relevant professionals in order to share, with necessary consent, 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 SENCO will make the necessary arrangements following this decision.

**Remote Learning**

Children with an EHCP and those most vulnerable SEN children will be contacted weekly to discuss wellbeing and strategies to further support children at home. Where possible, the SEN Team will contact additional professionals from various agencies in order to arrange supplementary support to the parent and child via telephone. All contact will be logged.

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

**Working with other agencies or providers**

Buttercup Primary School will continue to maintain remote contact with other professionals during this period of school closure. This will particularly include liaison with the SEN department, Speech and Language Team and Educational Psychology Service within the Local Authority in Tower Hamlets.

**Transition**

Buttercup Primary School’s approach to supporting children with transition will continue to be reviewed in line with all available DfE and government guidance.

This addendum will be reviewed by the SENCO light of new government guidance as and when it is published.