

# Frequently Asked Questions around SEND and response to Covid-19 - May 5<sup>th</sup> 2020

## About our support and guidance

The Inclusion Advisory Team have received over the last few weeks a variety of SEND related COVID 19 questions. There has also been a considerable amount of information given by the government and different parties. The purpose of this document is to draw some the SEND related questions/information together in one place. However please do beware that this is an ever changing situation and answers may change according to the latest government guidance. The information here is intended to help you. You will always need to refer to your own **school's** guidance and policies.

## Where can I find the latest Government advice about Covid-19 and SEND?

- The DFE website
- Barnet Website

<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-latest-information-and-advice>

- LNI Briefing/ School Circular
- The Barnet SENCo Zone on The Local Offer in the

News and Updates Section

[https://www.barnetlocaloffer.org.uk/senco\\_zone/blog\\_articles/2676-covid-19-latest-send-news-and-updates](https://www.barnetlocaloffer.org.uk/senco_zone/blog_articles/2676-covid-19-latest-send-news-and-updates)

This includes the latest advice and guidance about risk assessments for EHCP and vulnerable children.

## Do I have to do Annual Reviews?

The DFE issued advice about annual reviews and the removal of statutory time frames.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-law-on-education-health-and-care-needs-assessments-and-plans-due-to-coronavirus/education-health-and-care-needs-assessments-and-plans-guidance-on-temporary-legislative-changes-relating-to-coronavirus-covid-19>

Schools should aim to carry out annual reviews if they are due and seek the best advice from outside agencies that are available. Co-production with child and families should still be at the centre of the review. You may want to contact your families by email, telephone call All About Me Forms, chat to the young person, help them to complete. Do check the SENCo zone for further suggestions.

# Frequently Asked Questions around SEND and response to Covid-19 - May 5<sup>th</sup> 2020

## Should I still apply for EHCPs?

Schools should still apply for EHCP assessments. They should be very clear in the submission if Covid19 has affected the gathering of information or the ability to implement advice. Parent/carers can give permission via email.

## Can we still apply for SENIF?

Schools should still apply for SENIF. If the child is at nursery or likely to be able to attend because of their circumstances. The application should go to Complex Needs Panel in the normal way. It must contain updated information about what the child needs.

## Should we still be doing the Assess Plan Do Review Cycle?

Schools should still be making provision for children with EHCP. Schools should be making provision for children who are on the SEND Profile. Any support plan reviews should like annual reviews capture the voice of the young person and family where possible. See suggestions about holding a virtual meeting [https://www.barnetlocaloffer.org.uk/senco\\_zone/blog\\_articles/2676-covid-19-latest-send-news-and-updates](https://www.barnetlocaloffer.org.uk/senco_zone/blog_articles/2676-covid-19-latest-send-news-and-updates)

## Where can I sign post parents/carers for help with home learning?

The Barnet Local Offer Page has a section for home learning for parents/carers to access. It also includes links to relaxation activities and local charities that can support the families at this time. [https://www.barnetlocaloffer.org.uk/senco\\_zone/blog\\_articles/2639-home-learning-information-for-parents-carers](https://www.barnetlocaloffer.org.uk/senco_zone/blog_articles/2639-home-learning-information-for-parents-carers)

# Frequently Asked Questions around SEND and response to Covid-19 - May 5<sup>th</sup> 2020

## Where can I get ideas and resources for children with SEND to participate in?

The Barnet Local Offer Page has a section of home learning activities shared by our Specialist Settings. These are great for sharing with teachers and will help them to plan for their children. There are activities and resources to go with them.

[https://www.barnetlocaloffer.org.uk/senco\\_zone/blog\\_articles/2669-resources-from-our-specialist-settings](https://www.barnetlocaloffer.org.uk/senco_zone/blog_articles/2669-resources-from-our-specialist-settings)

The Specialist Team have put together a range of resources to support schools with planning, online learning and other areas.

[https://www.barnetlocaloffer.org.uk/senco\\_zone/blog\\_articles/2670-resources-to-support-schools](https://www.barnetlocaloffer.org.uk/senco_zone/blog_articles/2670-resources-to-support-schools)

## What is happening about the Integrated Therapy Services (SLT, OT, Physio Therapy)?

For latest information about Integrated Therapy service.

<https://www.barnetlocaloffer.org.uk/pages/home/information-and-advice/therapies>

## Can I still access the Educational Psychology Service, the Specialist Teachers and the SEN Case Workers?

Yes, you would contact all the SEN Teams and the Specialist Inclusion Services in the usual way.

The Educational Psychology service will also be offering reflection/supervision group – look out for these in the school circular

## Can I still make referrals for assessments to the intake meeting?

Yes the Children's Intake Panel is still meeting virtually each week. Please continue to make referrals once you have parental permission.

## Is SENDIASS still able to help parents/carers?

Yes Parents and carers can still access support from SENDIASS

<https://www.barnetlocaloffer.org.uk/organisations/27214-barnet-special-educational-needs-and-disability-information-advice-and-support-service-sendiass>

# Frequently Asked Questions around SEND and response to Covid-19 - May 5<sup>th</sup> 2020

## What online training is available for staff to continue with CPD?

We will be updating the SENCo Zone with online learning. We will be going ahead with the SENCo Conference on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020. (Probably Virtually). The Specialist Team are all offering bespoke training- you should check the school circular for updates.

## Should we still be planning for transitions?

Yes you will need to think about what a virtual transition package may look like. We will be providing training and support around this. (see the SENCo Zone: Transition Passport) information. Think about making virtual tours/photo books of your school.

## Are the SENCO Challenge Groups still happening?

Yes please look out for dates in the School Circular or email [Joann.Moore@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:Joann.Moore@barnet.gov.uk) or [Samantha.Rothwell@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:Samantha.Rothwell@barnet.gov.uk) for information. These will be virtual meetings.

## What support is available for mental health and wellbeing?

This is a challenging time for all families in terms of mental health and wellbeing.

The Local Offer has lots of useful ideas, resources and links to help you stay well. Particularly helpful is the document discussing Caring for Yourself and Your Family whilst self-isolating.

[http://admin.barnet.gov.uk/sites/default/files/caring\\_for\\_yourself\\_and\\_family\\_whilst\\_self\\_isolating.pdf](http://admin.barnet.gov.uk/sites/default/files/caring_for_yourself_and_family_whilst_self_isolating.pdf)

In addition, many services are offering extra help and advice. Please follow this link which is being regularly updated in light of Covid 19

<https://www.barnetlocaloffer.org.uk/pages/home/information-and-advice/therapies/camhs>

## Where is the support information from the Autism Team?

There is a telephone line for parents/carers to access. Resources have been posted by the Autism Team.

[https://www.barnetlocaloffer.org.uk/senco\\_zone/blog\\_articles/2667-barnet-autism-advisory-team-resources-for-parents-carers](https://www.barnetlocaloffer.org.uk/senco_zone/blog_articles/2667-barnet-autism-advisory-team-resources-for-parents-carers)

[https://www.barnetlocaloffer.org.uk/senco\\_zone/blog\\_articles/2652-barnet-autism-advisory-team-parent-hotline](https://www.barnetlocaloffer.org.uk/senco_zone/blog_articles/2652-barnet-autism-advisory-team-parent-hotline)

# Frequently Asked Questions around SEND and response to Covid-19 - May 5<sup>th</sup> 2020

## The Oak Academy and additional online resources

The DFE have produced guidance about different ways of working with schools. These can be found here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-online-education-resources-for-home-education#special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-send>

The Oak Academy

<https://www.thenational.academy/online-classroom/specialist>