

## Grace Academy Solihull Special Educational Needs and Disabilities during Covid-19 measures.

### Addendum to the current SEND policy

#### **Key Contacts for SEND:**

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#### **Useful numbers:**

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## Scope and definitions

This addendum applies during the period of closure due to Covid-19, and reflects updated advice. It sets out changes to our normal Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy (SEND).

Unless covered here, our normal SEND Policy continues to apply:

The Department for Education (DfE) has defined any child with an Educational and Health Care Plan (EHCP) as a 'vulnerable' child: this means that all children with an EHCP will receive, during Covid-19 lockdown measures, Intense Support in conjunction with additional: **Grace Academy Solihull Child Protection and Safeguarding during the COVID-19 measures Addendum.**

## Roles and responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities for SEND in our school remain in line with our current SEND Policy. If possible, our SENDCo, Inclusion Manager or other member of the SEND team will be available on site during the school day.

Where this is not possible,

- the SENDCo or Inclusion Manager will be available by phone and/or online via email,.

Where our SENDCo or Inclusion Manager cannot be on site, then in addition to one of the above options we will also ensure a senior leader from the Academy takes responsibility for children with SEND vulnerabilities.

**The Special Education Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator (SENDCo) is Dawn Russell.**

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**The Inclusion Manager for the Academy is Lisa Elwell:**

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## SEND - Vulnerable children

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with education or health care (EHC) plans.

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. This could include, if necessary, carers, therapists or clinicians visiting the home to provide any essential services. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.

All students with an EHCP and most SEND K (students at wave 2 of being monitored) will be allocated a case worker from the SEND Team. They will receive the Intensive Support as outlined in our Covid-19 procedures: minimum contact twice weekly, more if necessary. Where it is felt a student needs additional support to access learning remotely or the student needs to have access to the school provision, home visits will take place, undertaken by the SEND Team.

The SENDCo and Inclusion Manager will liaise daily and concerns will be considered during the weekly strategic meetings between Safeguarding and SEND leads.

### SEND - Increased vulnerability or risk

Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents. Staff will be aware of this in setting expectations of pupils' work where they are at home. Where we are providing for vulnerable children on site, we will ensure appropriate support is in place for them.

Our staff and volunteers will be aware of the mental health of children and their parents and carers and will contact the SENDCo/Inclusion Manager, DSL or a deputy DSL if they have any concerns.

### SEND - Attendance

Where a child with an EHCP is expected to attend the Academy but does not arrive, we will follow our attendance procedure and attempt to contact the family. This will include support from the SEND Team.

If contact cannot be made, the DSL, deputy DSL or allocated case worker (SEND Team) will be informed. The DSL, deputy DSL or allocated SEND case worker will attempt to contact the parents through various methods, such as telephone, email or by contacting a relative in the first instance. If contact cannot be made the SEND case worker/Inclusion Manager will undertake a home visit.

Where an EHCP vulnerable child does not take up their place, the SEND team will work closely with the family to support attendance: the SENDCo and Inclusion Manager will risk assess the level of vulnerability in terms of Safeguarding and the student need (learning or Social, Emotional, Mental Health (SEMH)). Where appropriate and/or necessary, any concerns will be escalated in line with our usual Child Protection and Safeguarding policies and procedures.

### SEND - Reporting concerns about children or staff: reference to:

#### **Grace Academy Solihull Child Protection and Safeguarding during the COVID-19 measures. Addendum to the current Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.**

The importance of all staff and volunteers acting immediately on any safeguarding concerns remains. Staff and volunteers will continue to follow our Child Protection policy and advise the DSL of any concerns they have about any child, including those who are not attending school. During COVID-19 procedures, this can be reported via a 'read receipt' email directly to the Safeguarding Team, subject title: **GREEN FORM** and marked as urgent and a support phone call the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead or on duty Senior Leader.

The varied arrangements in place as a result of the COVID-19 measures do not reduce the risks that children may face from staff or volunteers. As such, it remains extremely important that any allegations of abuse made against staff or volunteers attending our school are dealt with thoroughly and efficiently and in accordance with our Allegations Against Staff Policy.

### SEND - Online safety and engagement:

It is likely that children will be using the internet and engaging with social media far more during this time. Our staff are aware of the signs of cyberbullying and other online risks and our filtering and monitoring software remains in use during this time to safeguard and support children. Our staff will follow the process for online safety set out in our Child Protection Policy.

It is also recognised that some SEND vulnerable students will have an increased vulnerability and higher risk of failing to recognise the challenges of online activity. Where there are concerns, our normal Child Protection and Safeguarding procedures will be followed.

Some SEND students might struggle to access online/remote learning. Where this becomes evident, teaching staff/Heads of Year will seek support from the SEND team. All appropriate and necessary steps will be taken to assist the SEND student trying to work from home. If the student has an EHCP, further work will be undertaken to try and encourage the student to use the school provision – including seeking support from external agencies where possible.