

**Q. Are you expecting all children, including those with EHCPs to be back in North Somerset schools full time during September?"**

**LA says** "Yes, the expectation is that all children with an EHC plan will be returning to schools in September. By September 21<sup>st</sup>, we would expect all students to have transitioned back full-time. If a child/young person hasn't returned full-time we would expect the schools to flag this up with the LA and a meeting held to look at what the barriers are. This may involve health if the reasons are medical. There are a few students with complex medical needs where at present the risk for them returning to school is too high and so an alternative package is being looked at including support at home."

**Q. Will parents/carer's be fined if they don't send their child or young person to school and what is your advice if parents have concerns?**

**LA says** "This will be up to school head teachers to make a decision in line with government guidance. The expectation is that there is some flexibility at the start of September to manage transitions but after that children should be accessing school. If a family choose not to send the child back, the school will need to arrange a meeting with the family to discuss the situation and make the appropriate referrals or come back up with a plan to evidence how they will re-introduce the child back into the school environment. As the Local Authority, we are encouraging our schools to work with all our families and, where there are concerns about any return to school, to arrange opportunities for the school to be able to reassure the family of the measures the school has taken to ensure everyone's safety and well-being. We believe that this initial work with families will achieve a positive outcome in giving the young person and their family the confidence to enable them to return to school and so there should be no need to issue any penalty notices."

**Q. If a child is absent from school because they are isolating should parents expect schools to immediately offer online support instead?**

**LA says** "Schools have arrangements to be able to offer remote learning for students who are unable to attend because they are isolating."

**Q. Can my child be sent home, isolated or excluded if they are struggling to observe a modified behaviour policy in light of restrictions imposed because of Covid-19?**

**LA says** "This will be up to schools to follow their behaviour policies and also take into account the Equality Act. However, if a child is putting another child/adult at risk of harm then they could be sent home in line with the school's behaviour policy **and statutory exclusion guidance**. The DfE have added an exclusion code to the attendance regulations which is: "Wilful and repeated transgression of protective measures in place to protect public health". Whilst, I accept that there is a difference between an individual wilfully undermining protective measures and one who may genuinely struggle with adhering to protocols, the need to keep all individuals will be paramount."

**Q. What are your expectations on schools to deliver provision set out in EHCPs from September, now that the duty to secure provision in Section 42 of the C&FA 2014 has been re-instated?**

**LA says** “The removeable of the Covid-19 regulations means that all provision should be provided by schools or therapists. There are going to be some provision like hydrotherapy which aren’t going to be possible due to Covid-19 risks and the LA is hoping the DFE will provide further guidance around this type of situation, as currently the LA could be pulled up for not providing the provision within the plan. Health professionals will continue to deliver some support virtually and at other times will try to provide their provision outside of school’s hours. When support needs to be delivered within schools health professionals plan, in the main, to visit only one school per day. Schools are being asked to advertise their policies for admitting other professionals on to their sites on their web-sites.”

**Q. If a school is receiving top up funding for a child requiring support and that child usually works with a TA/LSA will that support be back in place?**

**LA says** “Yes, if the school received Top Up Funding this should be used to support the child. If they have a 1:1 working with them and it’s detailed in their EHC plan this should be provided. Top Up Funding doesn’t have to be used on a 1:1, but often s. If it is used for this purpose, we would expect the school to put the same support in that the child had before lockdown if the funding has remained the same and school deem that this is a suitable use of funding.”

**Q. How will you be expecting schools and how will the LA be utilising the additional catch up funding to support families?**

**LA says** “The catch-up funding goes directly to schools, who have DfE guidance on how to access the additional funding.”

**Q. For those receiving home to school transport, will a child or young person be refused transport if they don’t or can’t wear a face covering?**

**LA says** “We appreciate that matters relating to face coverings are a delicate matter.

We have an interest in the wellbeing of all concerned within our Home to School Transport service and the sustainability of that whilst we remain in a pandemic situation. I fully agree that, at this time, the legislation provides an exemption to young people (those under 11) from wearing face masks. It is, however, fair to say that this is a moving situation, example in point being where this has been introduced into some school settings.

We are asking parents to support our position, as a condition of travel, to consider the wellbeing of others and provide face coverings on transport.

This is of course unless there are medical reasons not to do so, in which case we fully agree this would not be appropriate use.

*For SEND students and those who have medical needs there isn’t an expectation to wear a face covering on transport.”*

**Q. Will schools close again if a North Somerset Lockdown is imposed and if so, are there contingency plans in place?**

**LA says** “As has been publicised there has been considerable attention given to this. Schools have been given guidelines as to how to respond in the cases of incidents of Covid 19 within a school and within the community. In the first instance they will be in contact with Public Health who will advise accordingly.

Contingency plans are in place for any occurrence of any outbreaks or a wider lockdown.”