

# Coronavirus (Covid-19):

## Information and advice for parents/carers of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)



This page is being regularly updated with the latest information and advice for parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs or a disability (SEND) during this challenging time.

We understand you will be feeling worried about the current situation and the impact this will have on your children, family and friends. We want to reassure you that the Birmingham Inclusion teams are working hard to continue our services in different ways to provide support for you and your child/ren.

## Vulnerable children and young people

**If your child is identified as vulnerable, then they should attend school or college during this lock down. Children and young people with Education Health and Care Plans are classed as vulnerable. The government's vulnerable children and young people list includes children and young people who:**

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
  - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services
  - adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
  - those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
  - those living in temporary accommodation
  - those who are young carers
  - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
  - care leavers
  - others at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health

If your child is classed as vulnerable, school staff will be in touch to discuss your child's attendance at school. We will continue to provide home to school transport for children who currently receive this provision and will, of course, provide vehicles that allow for social distancing.

## We're here to help.

We are reviewing the situation daily and want to resume all services as soon as we can. In the meantime, our teams are working closely with schools and families to give our full support throughout this difficult time.

Details of how you can get in touch with our support services are listed below. Whether you need some advice for your child, or just want a friendly chat, our teams are here to help. You may want some advice around managing educational activities, routines or just some general support.

**SEND Parent Link Contact Line** - 0121 303 8461 For queries and concerns call 0121 303 8461 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday and you will be signposted to the relevant professional to help with your child's needs.

**Communication and Autism Team (CAT)** Advice and support for families and children with communication needs and autism. Email: [CATParentEnquiries@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:CATParentEnquiries@birmingham.gov.uk) for more information.

**Early Years Inclusion Service** Helping you to support your child's learning, development and emotional needs in their early years. Email: [SENDenquiries@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:SENDenquiries@birmingham.gov.uk) for more information.

**Pupil and School Support (PSS) Service** Advice and support for families and children with learning difficulties. Email: [LDParentEnquiries@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:LDParentEnquiries@birmingham.gov.uk) for more information.

**Sensory Support Service (SSS)** Providing support and ideas to families and children with hearing or vision loss Email: [SSParentEnquiry@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:SSParentEnquiry@birmingham.gov.uk) for more information.

**Physical Difficulties Support Service (PDSS)**. Advice and support for families and their children with physical difficulties. Email: [PDSSParentEnquiry@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:PDSSParentEnquiry@birmingham.gov.uk)

***We will be updating these pages regularly so please keep checking for the latest advice and information.***

## Further Information

For wider information about coronavirus read Birmingham City Council's [daily update on the city's response to Coronavirus](#). You can also follow us on Twitter @ @BhamCityCouncil or Facebook@birminghamcitycouncil.

Visit the NHS website for [medical advice](#) and the official Government pages for the latest [government advice](#).

