



COVID-19

Information and advice from the Isle of Wight Council for families, education providers and support services about children with special educational needs, education health and care assessments and education health and care plans.

Following the recent government guidance, the Isle of Wight primary schools are now working hard to bring additional children back to school in specific year groups. The exact arrangements differ from school to school, therefore parents should talk to their child’s school to obtain accurate information. It is currently envisaged that secondary schools will shortly be able to commence some face to face learning for Years 10 and 12 for part of the week to supplement the home learning being provided.

These guidelines relate specifically to children with EHCPs and operate in addition to schools’ own risk assessments for the general readmission of children.

This information was updated on 2 June 2020.

EHC assessments

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| <p>I want to request an EHC assessment. Can I still do that?</p> | <p>Yes, although, it is possible that timescales may be delayed. Changes have now been made in law to allow for this and exceptions to the 20 week timescale to complete an assessment and issue a final EHC plan have been relaxed where delays relate to COVID 19.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-law-on-education-health-and-care-needs-assessments-and-plans-due-to-coronavirus and https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modification-notice-ehc-plans-legislation-changes</p> <p>The Education, Health and Care Assessment process involves early years setting, school and college staff, Local Authority officers, Educational Psychologists and NHS staff providing information.</p> <p>Most schools are open and most agencies are conducting assessments but there will be times, due to the current COVID 19 outbreak when it is difficult.</p> <p>This might mean that the Local Authority may not be able to complete Education, Health and Care assessments within the normal timescales.</p> |
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| | <p>We would urge parents and professionals to wait until schools and colleges have returned to business as usual before requesting an Education, Health and Care assessment, where possible so that assessments can be completed with the full and up to date information.</p> |
| <p>I would like my child to have an EHC plan to continue going to school or college during the Covid 19 outbreak. Can I request an EHC assessment so that they can?</p> | <p>Information on how to make a request for an EHC needs assessment for your child can be found here.</p> <p>https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/specialneeds/contacts</p> <p>Our guidance and information on this process has not changed because of the current situation.</p> <p>It should be noted that Education, Health and Care assessments usually take 20 weeks from request to making a final plan. With the emergency measures now in place, Education, Health and Care assessments may take longer than this, therefore applying for an Education, Health and Care assessment is unlikely to help your child access school or college during this emergency period.</p> <p>The government’s guidance on vulnerable children has confirmed that children undergoing an Education, Health and Care assessment are <u>not</u> defined as vulnerable (see question below about what happens in the Local Authority issues a draft Education, Health and Care plan during the Covid 19 outbreak). However the guidance says that schools, colleges and local authorities have some flexibility to use special educational needs and disability (SEND) risk assessments for children and young people who have SEND without an EHC plan, where they feel it would be beneficial, for instance for children on SEN support who have complex needs. If you think that your child or young person falls into this category you should discuss this with your child’s school or college in the first instance.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people</p> |
| <p>My child’s EHC assessment is already underway . When will it be</p> | <p>The Local Authority will do all that it can to progress Education, Health and Care assessments already started. However, it is possible that there may be delays because relevant staff are not available in schools and colleges to provide information, and the other professionals usually involved in the process may not be able to undertake assessment activity in the usual way.</p> <p>Where professionals such as the Local Authority’s Educational Psychologists have already assessed children, they are working to complete their advice and provide it to the Local Authority. Some</p> |

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| <p>complete ?</p> | <p>professionals may need to complete assessments already started but in different ways, such as by telephone.</p> <p>Where at all possible the Local Authority will use all recent reports (up-to 12 months old) including those that were not part of the Education, Health and Care assessment process if you and the Local Authority agree that they are suitable to complete the assessment. This is in keeping with current legal requirements.</p> <p>Advice givers such as Educational Psychologists are also completing assessments through telephone calls and virtual contact.</p> <p>Any draft Education, Health and Care plans completed in this way will be shared on the understanding that they are not based on full assessment information, and families will be able to elect whether to accept the draft EHC plan or defer the completion of a final Education, Health and Care plan until schools and colleges and other services return to business as usual, and a full Education, Health and Care assessment can be completed.</p> <p>Where families elect to accept a final Education, Health and Care plan built on this basis, we will consider with the family whether an early Annual Review is needed.</p> <p>All new plans will describe provision that should be offered when education providers are operating normally. They will not reflect temporary adaptations to provision that may need to be made as part of a school or colleges reasonable endeavours to meet need during COIV 19. Any adaptations to provision will be discussed with parents.</p> |
| <p>My child was issued a draft EHC plan before schools and colleges closed on 20 March 2020. Are they eligible to attend school as they have an EHC plan?</p> | <p>If your child has a draft Education, Health and Care plan or the decision to draft an Education, Health and Care plan was made by 20 March 2020 when schools and colleges closed, then they can be considered as a child who could continue or start to attend school regardless of their year group. The SEN Service is working hard to clear any backlog in cases however we are aware that some parents do still have a draft EHCP.</p> <p>For vulnerable children and young people who have an education health and care (EHC) plan, attendance is expected where it is determined, following risk assessment, that their needs can be as safely or more safely met in the educational environment so that they can gain the educational and wellbeing benefits of attending.</p> <p>You should speak with your current school or college about the risk assessment and it is anticipated that a joint decision on the content of this is made.</p> <p>The Local Authority will proceed to finalise the Education, Health and Care plan as soon as possible with regard to the existing legislation.</p> |

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| <p>My child's EHC assessment was not completed by 20 March, and I haven't received a draft EHC plan by 20 March. If the Local Authority issues a draft or final EHC plan while schools are closed, would they be eligible to attend school or college?</p> | <p>If your child's Education, Health and Care assessment was not completed by 20 March 2020, or a decision to issue a draft Education, Health and Care plan was not made by 20 March 2020, and you are not in a key worker household, they are not currently considered as a child who is eligible to attend school during the Covid 19 outbreak.</p> <p>The Local Authority will do all that it can to progress Education, Health and Care assessments already started. However, it may be delayed because schools and colleges are closed, and the other professionals usually involved in the process may not be able to undertake assessment activity in the usual way.</p> <p>If the Local Authority issues your child with a draft Education, Health and Care plan then they can be considered as a child eligible to attend school or college during the Covid 19 outbreak. If you wish for them to attend school or college, it would be most sensible and practical that your child continued to attend their current school or college for the time being.</p> <p>You should speak with your current early years setting, school or college if you would like your child to start attending during this Covid 19 outbreak.</p> <p>The Local Authority will proceed to finalise draft Education, Health and Care plans as soon as possible with regard to the existing legislation.</p> |
| <p>My child with an EHC plan is due to change phase of education / change school. What will happen now?</p> | <p>If your child with an Education, Health and Care plan is changing phase of education (from infant to junior, junior or primary to secondary school or secondary school to college), the Local Authority has by now secured their next school place for September 2020.</p> <p>If you have not yet received confirmation of your child's next placement, the Local Authority will continue to consult with your preferred and other suitable schools to secure a place for September 2020, and let you know as soon as it can that the next school place has been secured.</p> <p>If your child with an Education, Health and Care plan has finished school and is moving to college, sixth-form or an apprenticeship, the Local Authority will continue to consult with your preferred and other suitable settings to secure a place for September 2020 and let you know as soon as it can that the next placement has been secured.</p> |

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| | Schools and colleges will be contacting prospective parents where children are due to join them in September, outlining their transition arrangements, as soon as it is clear when schools will be reopening |
| My child is starting Year R in September. I think they have SEN, but they don't have an EHC plan and I haven't requested an EHC assessment. | <p>You should already have applied for your child's school place through the Local Authority's School Admissions Service. The Admissions Service will allocate places in mainstream schools according to the published admissions criteria.</p> <p>All state-funded mainstream schools have their own resources to meet children's special educational needs. Schools will use these resources to support children without an EHCP (SEN support)</p> <p>If, after starting mainstream school, and when schools and other services have returned to business as usual, it is thought that the child requires an Education, Health and Care assessment, the school or you can request one.</p> |

Annual Reviews

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| My child's Annual Review is overdue / due now / due soon. Will it go ahead? | <p>Early years settings, schools and colleges should continue wherever possible to hold Annual Reviews during the Covid 19 outbreak.</p> <p>Where Annual Reviews go ahead, they may be conducted by video conference if the family, school or college and involved professionals are available, have access to secure video conferencing facilities and agree with that approach.</p> <p>Annual reviews should consider how to meet needs under normal circumstances but also agree any provision changes that are in place due to the COVID 19 restrictions.</p> |
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Therapy Provision

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| My child needs to continue receiving the therapy in their EHC plan. | <p>Following government guidance, Therapists currently need to practice social distancing. This is in the best interests of parents and children.</p> <p>Due to the very high demand on the NHS, only therapy for high priority needs is being provided in the community. This means that therapy services are only able to do things which, if not done, could be a risk to parents or children. This might be because of</p> |
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| <p>Will they receive it?</p> | <p>swallowing difficulties, or that your child needs you to help them move or your child has specialist equipment to help them be comfortable and safe.</p> <p>Contacts from the Therapy Services will be by telephone or video conferencing rather than in-person unless you or your child needs to have the therapist with you to do a particular thing, such as listen to a swallow or adjust a piece of equipment. This would be discussed with you before the visit and be in agreement with you and only where you and your child are well and are not self-isolating.</p> <p>Occupational Therapists, Speech and Language Therapists and Physiotherapists will continue to work to advice and guidance from the Government, NHS England, their professional bodies and the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) which is under regular review during this time.</p> <p>For NHS : If you have an urgent concern or are worried about your child please contact the Isle of Wight NHS Trust. Telephone Advice Line: 01983-822099 They are available Monday to Friday 8 am- 5pm.</p> |
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Education Provision during the Covid 19 outbreak

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| <p>Who are 'vulnerable children'?</p> | <p>Essentially, these are children with a Social Worker or those aged 0 – 25 with Education, Health and Care plans.</p> <p>A full list of vulnerable children and their entitlement to continuing support during the Covid 19 outbreak is available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people.</p> |
| <p>Must all children with EHC plans continue to attend school or college?</p> | <p>For vulnerable children and young people who have an education health and care (EHC) plan, attendance is expected where it is determined, following risk assessment, that their needs can be as safely or more safely met in the educational environment so that they can gain the educational and wellbeing benefits of attending.</p> <p>You should speak with your current school or college about the risk assessment and it is anticipated that a joint decision on the content of this is made.</p> |
| <p>My child has an EHC plan and is entitled to</p> | <p>The government has used its emergency powers to modify the statutory duty on Local Authorities to maintain the precise provision in Education, Health and Care Plans. Children with an Education, Health and Care plan may not therefore receive all the</p> |

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| <p>full-time education including their 1:1 support. Will they get it?</p> | <p>provision, including therapies, in their Education, Health and Care plan during the Covid 19 outbreak. Schools and colleges should make reasonable endeavours to meet children’s needs and discuss the available provision with families and young people. Schools may draw upon Local Authority advice about how to best meet children’s needs if they are limited in what they are able to offer.</p> <p>Schools and colleges are making sensible, pragmatic provision for children with Education Health and Care plans and other vulnerable children in line with the government’s requirements on social distancing and with the staff resources that are available to them, which are significantly reduced.</p> <p>Families should speak with their school or college’s Special Educational Needs Coordinator about their school or college’s offer and arrangements during the Covid 19 outbreak if they have concerns about provision.</p> |
| <p>The government has said that Local Authorities will ‘risk assess’ the continuing education arrangements for children with EHC Plans. What is HCC doing?</p> | <p>The Isle of Wight Council has risk assessed the continuing education arrangements for children with Education, Health and Care plans who receive education other than at school (EOTAS) – see the FAQ section called Education Other Than At School.</p> <p>Where children are attending school or college, staff in those settings will be undertaking their own risk assessments in conjunction with parents and involving the Local Authority, as necessary.</p> <p>Schools and colleges will be risk assessing whether a child is safe in school or college and what EHCP provision it can offer in either the school or home.</p> <p>Schools and colleges may not be able to offer all provision named in a plan. They will be taking <i>reasonable endeavours</i> to facilitate the provision in Education, Health and Care plans whether a child is at home or at school or college.</p> <p>How this is done should be decided in partnership between schools, colleges, families and other professionals, as appropriate.</p> <p>Ultimately, schools and colleges are best placed to make decisions about the reasonable endeavours that they can make and how they can keep all children safe in their school.</p> <p>The Local Authority is in weekly contact with every state-funded school and college about those arrangements. Where schools and colleges cannot mitigate the risks to educating children in their setting or cannot make <i>reasonable endeavours</i>, they will</p> |

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| | <p>inform the Local Authority by making contact with their SEN key worker and they will work together to explore making different education arrangements.</p> |
| <p>What about Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in Education Settings?</p> | <p>The Department for Education (DfE) guidance is regularly updated and can be found here:</p> <p>The latest information states:</p> <p><i>The majority of staff in education, childcare and children’s social care settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain distance of 2 metres from others.</i></p> <p><i>PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>children, young people and learners whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way</i> • <i>PPE should be worn if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained from any child, young person or other learner displaying coronavirus symptoms</i> <p><i>Education, childcare and children’s social care settings and providers should use their local supply chains to obtain PPE. Where this is not possible, and there is unmet urgent need for PPE in order to operate safely, they may approach their nearest local resilience forum.</i></p> <p>The latest scientific guidance states:</p> <p><i>11. PPE in education settings</i></p> <p><i>Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended. Face coverings may be beneficial for short periods indoors where there is a risk of close social contact with people you do not usually meet and where social distancing and other measures cannot be maintained, for example on public transport or in some shops. This does not apply to schools or other education settings, as protective measures will be in place ensuring children and staff only will with a small consistent group.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>If a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus (COVID19) while in their setting, and needs to be cared for until they can return home, a facemask should be worn if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then gloves,</i> |

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| | <p><i>an apron and a facemask should be worn. If a risk assessment determines there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn.</i></p> <p><i>For further guidance on safe working and the use of PPE, read Safe working in education, childcare and children’s social care.</i></p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care</p> <p>Detailed guidance has been also published by the DFE regarding implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings in preparation for a phased return to school for some children and young people from 1 June 2020.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings</p> |
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State-funded Special Schools & Colleges

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| <p>My child is due to be transferring to another school in September 2020. What will happen?</p> | <p>If your child with an Education, Health and Care plan is changing phase of education (from infant to junior, junior or primary to secondary school), the Local Authority has by now secured their next school place.</p> <p>Currently the expectation is that schools will continue to work together to plan for the transition of children into new schools ready for September 2020. Should the advice and timeline for children to return to school mean that this is not possible, the Local Authority will update its advice and you will be contacted by your schools or the SEN Service.</p> |
| <p>My child is due to be transferring to college or other post-16 provision in September 2020. What will happen?</p> | <p>Ordinarily, Local Authorities would have up-to 31 March to amend Education, Health and Care plans for children moving from secondary school to post-16 provision. The Local Authority is in the process of consulting with colleges for these children. The Covid 19 outbreak will inevitably slow this process down.</p> <p>Currently the expectation is that schools and colleges will continue to work together to plan for the transition of children into college ready for September 2020. Should the advice and timeline for children to return to college mean that this is not possible, the Local Authority will update its advice and you will be contacted by your schools or the SEN Service.</p> |

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| <p>My child is due to change schools in September, but a school placement has not yet been identified. What will happen?</p> | <p>If you have not yet received confirmation of your child's next school place, and they have an Education, Health and Care plan, the Local Authority will continue to consult with your preferred and other suitable schools to secure a place for September 2020. However, if there are delays due to lack of availability of staff, the Local Authority will contact you.</p> |
| <p>My child with an EHC plan is due to be starting a new school now. What will happen?</p> | <p>If you still in the process of identifying a school, the Local Authority has issued advice to schools about ways to help parents gain a view of the school in the absence of a visit.</p> <p>Suggestions include offering video tours of the school or holding online meetings with key staff.</p> <p>Where an Education, Health and Care plan has been issued and names a new school, the new school becomes responsible for the education of that child, including the special educational provision in that plan.</p> <p>Managing transition of children with Education, Health and Care plans into a new school with reduced staff and a different structure to the day will need careful planning.</p> <p>Your new school will be making contact with you about these arrangements.</p> <p>Once your child starts school, Schools are currently working very hard to provide sufficient staffing levels for the most vulnerable children already attending that school. The provision that schools are making during the Covid 19 outbreak is much reduced. While some elements of daily education will continue, it is unlikely be an ordinary school day. Schools will be using <i>reasonable endeavours</i> to arrange the provision in Education, Health and Care plan. They will discuss this with you.</p> |

Independent Special School, College and Provider Closures

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| <p>What happens if my child's independent special</p> | <p>The Local Authority does not have the same relationship with independent special schools, colleges and providers as it does for those that are state-funded; however, the Local Authority is in weekly contact with those schools too. The government's expectation is that the same rules that apply to state-funded</p> |
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| <p>school, college or provider closes?</p> | <p>schools and colleges apply to independent special schools, colleges and providers. Some independent special schools, colleges and providers may need to close due to the Covid 19 outbreak. Independent special schools, colleges and providers will be facing the same staffing and public health concerns as state-funded special schools.</p> <p>If your child attends an independent special school, college or provider that closes and you cannot make any other arrangements to supervise your child with an Education, Health and Care plan at home, or you think that they may be vulnerable because for example because they have complex health needs, the Local Authority may be able to temporarily arrange for them to attend a state-funded special school or college. Phone the SEN Helpline: 01983 823470 between 9.30am and 4.30pm (4.15pm on Friday).</p> <p>The SEN Case Worker for the area in which you live will know which state-funded special schools and colleges may be most suitable and if there is capacity and expertise to support their needs. It will be the decision of the Headteacher of that special school or Principal of the college to confirm to the Local Authority that it can make a temporary arrangement for your child. This is in line with the <i>reasonable endeavours</i> duty that applies to Local Authorities as well as schools and colleges.</p> <p>If a temporary arrangement is offered, it is unlikely that the school or college will be able to deliver all the provision in the Education, Health and Care plan, including therapies.</p> <p>The provider and families need to risk assess their individual circumstances.</p> |
| <p>I would like to be paid the equivalent of the costs of the independent special school placement and arrange it myself.</p> | <p>This is not possible.</p> <p>Payments to education providers have usually already been made or guaranteed in advance; the Local Authority has contractual obligations to these providers, just as those employers do to their employees. If a 'personal budget' was not already agreed between you and the Local Authority, the current arrangements cannot now be changed.</p> |

Education other than at school (EOTAS)

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| <p>My child has EOTAS</p> | <p>Special Needs Officers and Case Workers are contacting families of children with an Education, Health and Care plan who</p> |
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| <p>arrangements. Are these continuing?</p> | <p>receive a package of education other than at school (EOTAS), and are not currently attending a nursery, school or college.</p> <p>Some families may already be self-isolating due to illness or because there are vulnerable people in the family. Other families may choose to temporarily discontinue packages, given the Covid 19 outbreak.</p> <p>Wherever possible EOTAS packages will continue, and Special Needs Officers and Case Workers will work with families and providers to risk-assess the maintenance of the package of support, for example considering if the way that the provider and their staff delivers the package is in-line with the government advice.</p> <p>Providers may need to limit or adapt their delivery and the Local Authority will work with them and ask them to use the <i>reasonable endeavours</i> to offer provision. This will include on-line tutoring, video conferencing through free to use apps, phoning or text messaging.</p> <p>Should more providers' staff need to self-isolate, continued provision may not be possible. In that case, the Local Authority will discuss if another provider or service could be offered to support the family.</p> |
| <p>I would like to be paid the equivalent of the costs of the EOTAS package and arrange it myself.</p> | <p>This is not possible.</p> <p>Payments to education providers have usually already been made or guaranteed in advance; the Local Authority has contractual obligations to these providers, just as those employers do to their employees. If a 'personal budget' was not already agreed between you and the Local Authority, the current arrangements cannot now be changed.</p> |

School transport

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| <p>My child is eligible to school transport. Will this continue?</p> | <p>The Local Authority will continue to make home to school transport available to those children who were already eligible to receive it and who continue to be eligible to attend school during the Covid 19 outbreak. If eligible children need to temporarily attend a different school, this may require some changes to be made which may take a little time to arrange.</p> |
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Key Workers

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| <p>Am I a Key Worker?</p> | <p>Check the up to date list provided by the government: www.gov.uk</p> |
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| | Some schools may offer further flexibility. If you consider that you are in a key worker household but not defined as such on the government's list and you cannot make other suitable arrangements for your child(ren), contact your school(s). |
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Mediations

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| I would like to have a mediation with the Local Authority. Can I still have one? | You can continue to request a mediation from the mediation provider, Global Mediation https://www.iow.gov.uk/localoffer/View/Local-Offer-Appeals/The-difference-between-dispute-resolution-and |
| My mediation is already scheduled. Is this continuing? | <p>The mediation provider will contact you if anything has changed with your current arrangements.</p> <p>Mediations will be delivered differently during the Covid 19 outbreak, due to the government's restrictions on people's movement and social distancing. Therefore, this is likely to be by telephone or video conference.</p> <p>If you cannot or feel unable to participate by telephone or video conference, it is likely that the mediation cannot go ahead. In that case, you have the option to request a mediation certificate.</p> <p>The mediation provider's staffing capacity may also limit their availability to deliver mediations. The government has relaxed some of the timescales related to mediations associated with the difficulties due to Covid 19.</p> |

Appeals to the First Tier Tribunal - SEND

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| I would like to appeal to the First Tier Tribunal. Can I still do that? | <p>If you have received a mediation certificate from the mediation provider, Releasing Potential, you may appeal to the First Tier Tribunal in the usual way.</p> <p>Currently, HM Courts & Tribunals Service is continuing to receive appeals and conduct hearings but has confirmed that there will not be any hearings in person. How each appeal proceeds will be assessed on a case-by-case basis by the Tribunals Service, with input from the Local Authority.</p> |
| I am currently involved in a First Tier | Currently, the HM Courts & Tribunals Service is continuing to receive appeals and conduct hearings but has confirmed that there will not be any hearings in person. How each appeal |

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| <p>Tribunal. Is this continuing?</p> | <p>proceeds will be assessed on a case-by-case basis by the Tribunals Service, with input from the Local Authority.</p> <p>If you have been provided a date for a hearing which is imminent, it is likely that the way this will be conducted is altered. The Tribunal Service has confirmed that where possible hearings will go ahead on paper or by telephone (or where technology permits by video conferencing).</p> <p>The Tribunal Panel traditionally consists of two or three members. Under current arrangements you may have one Judge who may call upon advice from other non-legal colleagues.</p> <p>Details will be provided two days before the hearing and parties have been asked not to call the Tribunal Service until they receive this notification.</p> <p>If you are waiting for a date for a hearing, the Tribunal Service will continue to contact you in the usual way, with instructions.</p> <p>It is anticipated that further changes to the Tribunal Service will be published very soon.</p> <p>Read more updates from HM Courts & Tribunals Service at their website: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-courts-and-tribunals-planning-and-preparation</p> |
| <p>I am appealing for a different education placement. What will happen during the Covid 19 outbreak?</p> | <p>How each appeal proceeds will be assessed on a case-by-case basis by the Tribunals Service, with input from the Local Authority. If the Local Authority does not consider that they can get all the necessary evidence in a case due to Covid 19 then they will seek an adjournment. It will be for the Tribunal to decide whether to agree to a request for an adjournment.</p> |
| <p>Can I still commission assessments to inform my appeal?</p> | <p>Currently professionals should not be attending homes or schools for assessment purposes. Many have found alternative means of assessment for example via video conferencing. It is possible that your appeal will experience some delays if assessments are required by either party.</p> |
| <p>I have just been offered a new school placement through an appeal. Will that go ahead?</p> | <p>Schools and colleges will contact you to arrange or amend start dates. In the meantime, if your child is already attending a school or college the expectation is that the current arrangements are maintained until transfer arrangements are agreed and completed. If your child is not already registered with a school or college, please contact your SEN Case Worker.</p> |

Latest advice

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| <p>What is the government's latest advice?</p> | <p>The government understands that these are uncertain times and that you will have a lot of questions and concerns. We encourage you to keep up-to-date by regularly checking www.gov.uk; this is where the government will publish its updates and any new guidance.</p> <p>The government introduced emergency legislation about children with special educational needs, Education, Health and Care assessments, Education, Health and Care plans and the provision for vulnerable children:</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-bill-what-it-will-do/what-the-coronavirus-bill-will-do</p> <p>The Government has issued updated guidance for schools to prepare for wider opening on June 1st 2020.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020/actions-for-education-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020</p> <p>If you need any further advice, you can speak to an adviser on the DfE Coronavirus helpline. The number is 0800 046 8687 – lines are open 8am-6pm Monday – Friday, and 10am-4pm on Saturday and Sunday.</p> |
| <p>What is the Isle of Wight Council's latest advice?</p> | <p>The Isle of Wight Council will regularly update its website: https://www.iow.gov.uk/</p> |
| <p>Isle of Wight Parent Carer Network</p> | <p>The Isle of Wight Parent Carer Network will regularly update its website: http://www.parentsvoice-iw.co.uk/</p> |
| <p>SENDIASS</p> | <p>SENDIASS will regularly update its website: http://iowsendiass.co.uk/</p> |
| <p>Local Offer</p> | <p>The Isle of Wight Local Offer is regularly updated: https://www.iow.gov.uk/localoffer</p> |

Contacting the SEN Service

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| <p>How can I contact the SEN Service?</p> | <p>The Isle of Wight's SEN Helpline will remain staffed and open for families: telephone 01983 823470 between 9.30am and 4.30pm (4.15pm on Friday)</p> <p>There may be times when we are unable to answer the telephone immediately as most staff are working remotely. You can therefore also email the SEN Service at SEN.General@IOW.GOV.UK</p> |
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