

Parent Carers Together, have asked SENDiass4BCP to answer some frequently asked questions.

Below are some pointers and some useful web links. However, due to the situation changing and updating frequently, some of this information could quickly become out of date or incorrect. Therefore, please follow SENDiass on Twitter or access SENDiass4BCP website (www.sendiass4bcp.org) as information will be frequently updated.

If you have a question about your own child's situation, please email sendiass@bcpCouncil.gov.uk

SENDiass4BCP Q & A

Q1 Since school's have closed and my child is at home full time, we have been having lots of meltdowns, some of which are becoming aggressive and violent. I have been hurt and my property damaged.

If you are concerned about your child's behaviour and you have CAMHS or Children's or Adult's LD Team involvement, make contact with them and ask for support.

CAMHS - To speak to someone urgently, please call Connection, 24/7 helpline, on **0300 123 5440**.

Children's Learning Disability Team - <http://learningdisabilitiesdorset.uk/how-to-contact-us/contact-children-learning-disabilities-services/contact-east-dorset-children>

Adult's Learning Disability Team - <http://learningdisabilitiesdorset.uk/how-to-contact-us/contact-adults-learning-disabilities-services>

If you are concerned about the welfare of your child and other children within the home, due to the behaviour they are showing you can get in touch with Early Help service or social care (if significant harm, or risk of):

Early Help: <https://www.earlyhelppartnership.org.uk/early-help/early-help.aspx>

Children's Social Care – MASH

Poole's multi agency safeguarding hub, on 01202 735046

Bournemouth's multi agency safeguarding hub, on 01202 458101 or 01202 458102

Out of Hours

You can call out of hours service on **01202 738256**

Adult Social Care

<https://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/adult-social-care-services/AdultSocialCare.aspx>

<https://www.poole.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/help-for-adults/adult-social-care-contacts/>

Out of hours

<https://www.poole.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/adult-social-care-emergencies/>

If the situation is extreme, then the advice would be to call the police.

Q2 I am concerned about the emergency legislation going through Parliament at the moment and how it will affect my child's EHCP.

SENDiass are expecting a further briefing as the bill is passed into law, which we will summarise and publish on the SENDiass4BCP website.

Please log on to www.sendiass4bcp.org

These pages may also be useful:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people?utm_source=62ad7c10-fa33-4187-972d-85e99181e619&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

<https://www.specialneedsjungle.com/coronavirus-school-attendance-exclusions-your-legal-questions-answered-part-3/>

Q3 At school, through the provision in their EHCP, my child had support from Occupational Therapy and Speech & Language Therapy, are they entitled to continuing support whilst they aren't attending school?

If the SALT/OT support is provided within the resources of the school, and you require some advice, then we would suggest contacting whoever school has identified as the first port of call – that person would then then contact SALT/OT for advice, to be passed on to you.

If the support is via the NHS, then contact whoever the Children's Therapy Service have advised is first port of call, within the service, if not their therapist directly.

Q4 I am concerned about the amount of work, school is sending through for my child to complete. We are all really struggling to complete it.

It would be best to have a conversation with whoever school have identified as the first point of contact. It is noted that 1:1 learning, is more intense than class based learning, therefore it is not expected that pupils are sitting from 9-3 every day at home – in terms of elective home education, the guidance is that parents need to be providing suitable education, there is nothing in law more specific.

There is no legislation to guide this situation as it is unprecedented, if parents are concerned about the impact and stress they and their child are experiencing, they need to discuss this with their child's school.

The BCP EP service have produced a very useful document 'Looking after families in BCP', which can be found here:

<https://www.sendiass4bcp.org/COVID19.aspx>

Q5 I'm worried about phone calls, emails and drive by welfare visits from school staff.

School's understand the enormous pressure families have been placed under, following school closures. The focus here is on keeping in touch with school and vice versa. It's about keeping channels of communication open and letting school know, if it is too much (as Q1 and Q4 above). The situation is so unique for everyone and all services, parents and wider community are trying hard to find a way to manage.

The legalities around welfare, would fall under the duties and guidance for school's around safeguarding children. If schools have existing concerns for your child's welfare or are concerned about the impact of the

current situation on your families ability to cope safely, they will have a duty to maintain phone/email contact, to support you and your family, in accessing additional support from Social Care/Early Help should the need arise.

Q6. I am wondering whether the funding allocated to school, within my child's EHCP, can support us at home so we can purchase a laptop/OT equipment/sensory equipment.

It would be best to contact your child's Assessment Coordinator or Ian Clarke, SEND Manager, for a response.

Q7 If a school has offered my child a space for September does it mean that my child gets a place as long as the funding is agreed by management or will it mean that my child will join the school's waiting list?

If a place has been offered through usual admissions, then there will be a place. If it has been agreed through consultation on an EHCP and named, as far as I'm aware the law hasn't been amended and the school will have to admit.

You may wish to contact admissions:

<https://www.bpcouncil.gov.uk/Quicklinks/fwlanding/school-admissions.aspx>

Or your child's Assessment Coordinator.

Q8 My child is Children transitioning to a new schools in September - I have not heard anything from the school that has offered place - how long should I wait before contacting to check if transition arrangements will be put into place in preparation?

As we don't know how long schools will be closed for, it will be difficult for schools to start transition planning until the situation is clearer. Parents could be proactive and email the receiving schools, to make suggestions about what would work for their child, for when the school does start to plan.

When schools do reopen, it would be worth contacting the SENCo, at the receiving school to arrange a face to face meeting,