



St Katherine's School



2 September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

With the return to school underway, it is natural that some of our pupils are starting to think about what this will entail and what changes will have been implemented with regards to SEND support at school. We have made some changes to the way the SEND Department operates, minimising the impact to ensure our pupils are supported in lessons and within Engage. We are acutely aware the past few months have been very difficult for many of our pupils and their families, especially in respect to their mental health and emotional wellbeing. We understand our students with SEND will need support and reassurance to help settle into school again.

Year group bubbles in Engage

We are operating year group bubbles which means pupils will not be able to use the Engage area as they have done previously. However, we plan to arrange for Engage to be staffed by members of the SEND Team at all times so that we can return to a model where pupils may use the area for interventions in the near future. We will build this slowly in order to maintain a Covid safe environment as outlined in our risk assessment. We have separated each space within the Engage area so different year groups can be accommodated in different areas of the space when they are timetabled to be there. Currently, this involves a small number of pupils. The Engage classroom will be divided for use by Year 7 and Year 8. The Inclusion classroom will be divided for use by Year 9s and Year 10s. There are no Year 11s timetabled to be in the Engage area at this time. Pupils will not be able to come to Engage during the day on an adhoc basis. We will schedule sessions in the Engage area in line with the provision outlined on their EHCP or SEND Support Plans when interventions start.

Classroom support

The way that learning support assistants support pupils in the classroom will also change. It is going to be more difficult for our learning support assistants to help multiple pupils in a classroom as moving around the room with multiple pupils will not be possible. We will be reviewing this at the start of term carefully, making adjustments to support students where needed, as detailed in their EHCP or SEND Support Plan. This will be reviewed frequently and adjustments will be made where required. Our learning support assistants will be on hand to support students with resources and emotional/curriculum support where needed, albeit with social distancing maintained. There will be a presence in each year group block within the school. Many pupils with SEND have been allocated keyworkers in addition to the support they receive from the pastoral team in previous years and these arrangements will continue.

Brain breaks

Some pupils, not limited to but including students with ADHD diagnoses, require brain breaks as outlined on their EHCP or SEND Support Plan. Again, this affects a small number of students and these pupils have a previously agreed arrangement and safe space to go to if required within the Engage area.

Toilet passes

We start each year with a new list as medical matters around toileting can change. Toilet passes will not automatically continue. Due to the restrictions around Covid and movement around the school, we would like medical evidence in order to issue a new toilet pass and pupils will only be able to use their designated year group toilet. Equally, we want to make sure that pupils with genuine medical issues feel calm about returning and reassured that a toilet pass will be issued as soon as possible on their return. If your child requires a toilet pass for a medical reason, email Nicky Grocock at Student Support on grocockn@skdrive.org.

Interventions

We plan to start interventions as soon as possible. When pupils are settled and ready we will endeavour to resume interventions, making the necessary changes to ensure mixing between cohorts is prevented. Interventions will include speech and language therapy, counselling, literacy support and gardening and will be timetabled in advance.

Meetings and SEND Support Plans

The SEND Department is planning to meet parents of pupils with SEND throughout the year in line with our graduated approach of assess, plan, do and review. This is when we will create or review SEND Support Plans or EHCPs. We will be sending out meeting dates when the new term starts.

If you have immediate concerns with regards to your child returning, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

SEND: Contact Us

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Yours sincerely

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