

Education and Skills • People • Cumbria House • 110 - 117 Botchergate
Carlisle • Cumbria • CA1 1RD

26 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Special School Provision in Cumbria

I write in relation to the ongoing situation regarding Covid-19, and Special School provision for your child. As you know, these are unprecedented times, leading us to draw on our reserves and to make difficult decisions every day.

Special Schools are currently closed but the intention is to resume provision for a small number of priority pupils on 14 April 2020. Staff from your Special School will be working on a voluntary basis to provide this. Headteachers have been in touch with you all and identified if your child is eligible for this provision. It is likely that this will be on a reduced timetable basis. If your child is not going to be directly accessing provision, you will continue to be contacted by a member of your child's school staff in order to maintain contact throughout this period.

At the current time, it is the expectation that parents/carers will transport their child to where possible. For those children where this is not possible we will endeavour to make transport arrangements and your school will have discussed your needs in this respect to help us with planning

We appreciate the significant challenge posed by recent government legislation around social distancing. We appreciate the significant challenge the current situation presents to families of children in Special Schools. Please, remember you can also contact your Social Worker or EHCP co-ordinator to seek support. There will also be some resources available online at the Local Offer. I am sure you will agree, the most important thing at the moment is ensuring safety.

With thanks in advance to you for your understanding in these uncertain times.

Yours sincerely



Dan Barton

Assistant Director – Education and Skills